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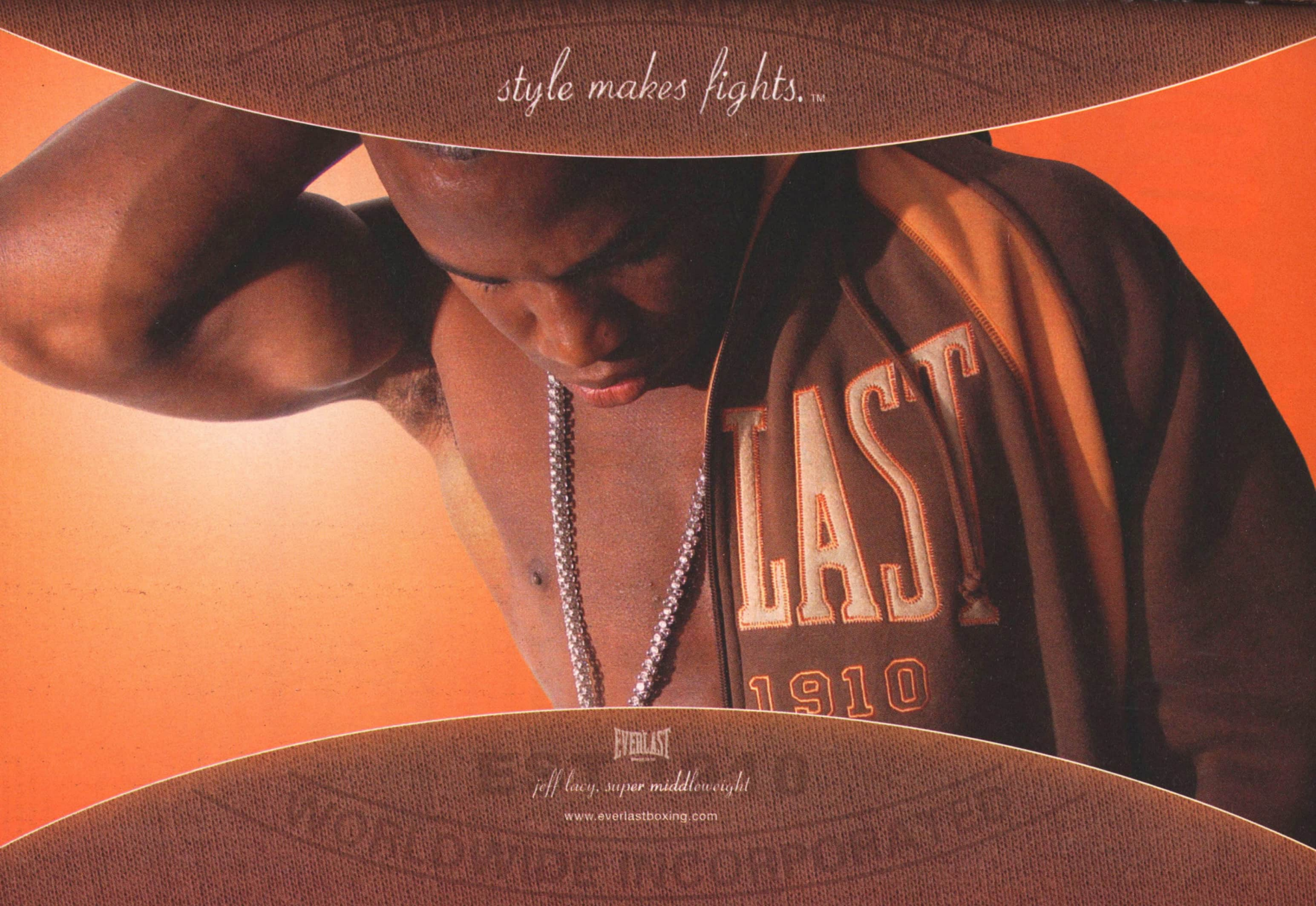
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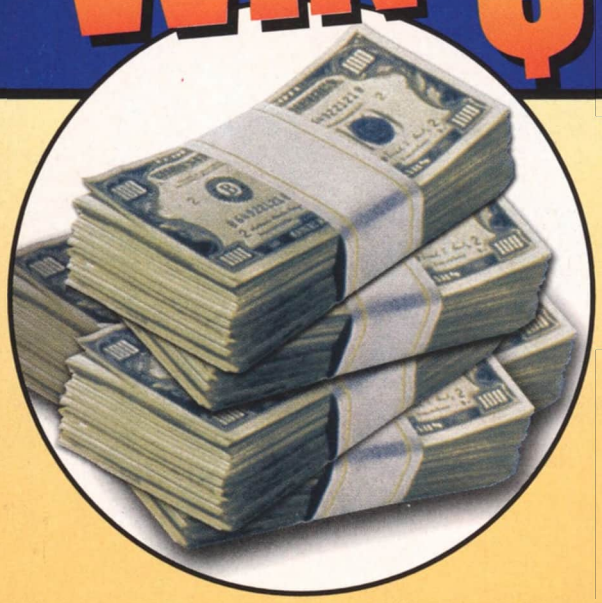

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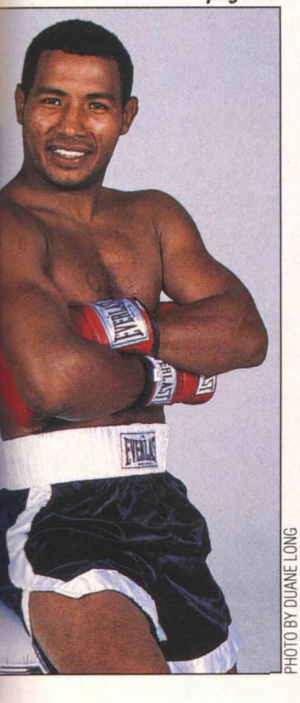

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# RINGSIDE

I don't know what angers me the most: hi-rise protective cups, slippery beer logos on the ring canvas, or the boxing industry's failure to do much about either problem.

Inappropriately large cups and logo-induced pratfalls might not rank up there with ring deaths, fixed fights, and the cancer-like effects of the alphabet organizations, but that doesn't mean that they're not significant issues. The former is a way of cheating, and the latter a serious danger to the health and safety of the fighters.

Several months ago, THE RING drew attention to the hi-rise groin protectors in an article David Mayo wrote for the August 2003 issue ("Their Cups Runneth Over: Boxers Have Found A New Way To Cheat"). Several state commissioners, as well as Association of Boxing Commissioners President Tim Lueckenhoff, were interviewed for the article. All agreed it was a growing problem and Lueckenhoff said "we're going to re-do our Regulatory Guidelines" at the ABC summer meeting.

That sounded encouraging, but the ABC's summer meeting has come and gone, and little of a concrete nature was accomplished.

"I brought it up for discussion at the meeting," said Pennsylvania Athletic Commission Executive Director Greg Sirb, a past president of the ABC, "and there wasn't one disagreement. But it was not put into the uniform rules."

Sirb said that the general feeling was that the cup problem should be addressed by local commissions at the prefight rules meeting and then emphasized by the referees. But right now, none of the state commissions has a rule that specifies the proper size of the groin protector, so how do you enforce a rule that doesn't exist?

Even less has been done to prevent boxers from slipping on painted logos, which seems to happen on almost every televised boxing card. Fitz Vanderpool took several nasty logo-triggered spills during his bout with Fernando Vargas and suffered an injury severe enough that he had to be assisted from the arena.

Had it been Vargas who was injured, we might be well on the way to eliminating dangerously slick logos. The first time a major star is injured by a logo slip, the lawsuits will fly faster than Roy Jones' fists, and the sponsor, promoter, venue, and state commission will all be in the line of legal fire.

While a legal remedy might solve the slick logo problem, it's going to be up to the managers and trainers to prevent their fighter's opponent from gaining an unfair advantage by wearing a hi-rise cup. All it would take would be for a couple of main event fighters to refuse to fight if the guy in the other corner is wearing a cup halfway up to his armpits. Yes, it would cause some inconvenience and confusion, but that's usually the price you pay when making changes for the better.

***

I was tremendously disappointed when Lennox Lewis announced he would not fight again in 2003. Lewis, who can't seem to make up his mind if he wants to keep fighting or not, is doing the sport that made him rich a disservice. Barring injury, it is the heavyweight champion's responsibility to defend the title on a regular basis. For the past two years, Lewis has failed to do so. Shame on him!

**Nigel Collins**
**Editor-in-Chief**


**Volume 82, No. 13 December 2003**

The Ring

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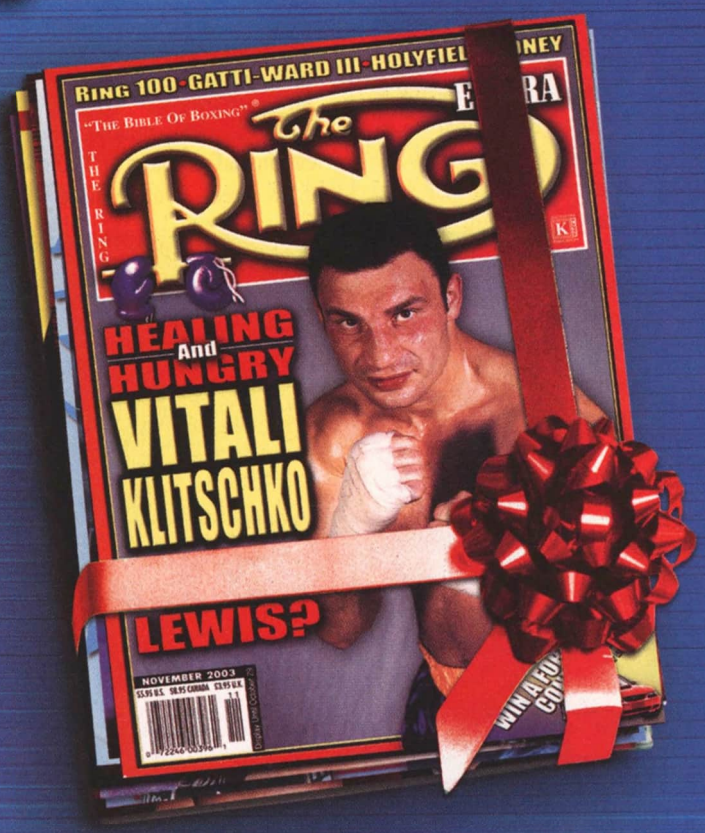


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# ROUND ONE

## THE TYSON SAGA REACHES CHAPTER 11

For the second issue in a row, Mike Tyson commands the opening page of "Round One." And for the second issue in a row, it has absolutely nothing to do with any new developments in his boxing career.

On the heels of his arrest for a brawl with three civilians in a Brooklyn hotel lobby in June, Tyson was again making headlines several weeks later when he filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection and admitted he had spent somewhere between $300-million and $500-million since the start of his career. Even to those who had an awareness of Tyson's irresponsibly lavish living and resulting financial difficulties, the numbers were as staggering as any straight right hand from the former heavyweight champion.

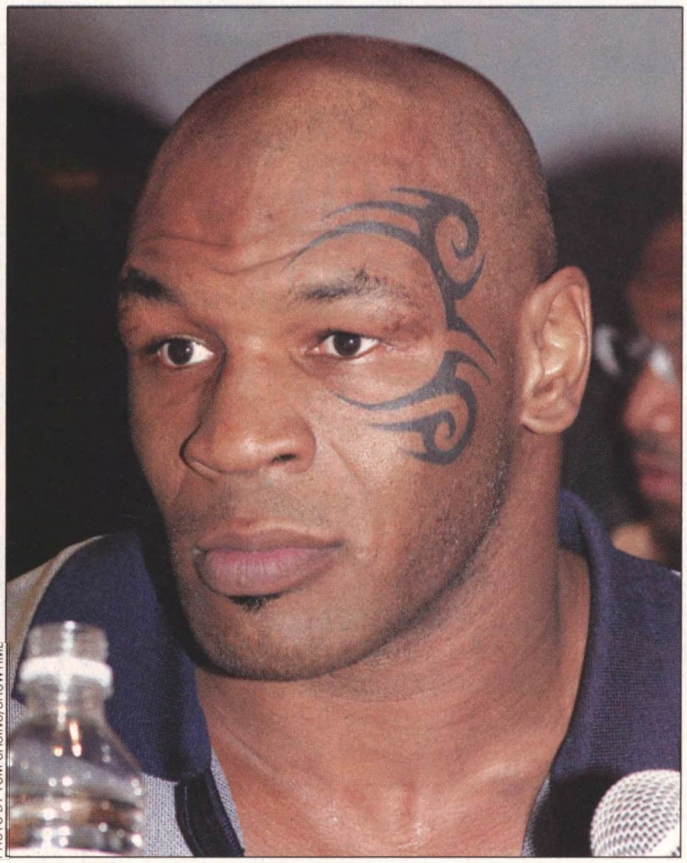


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

*Mikey's millions are all gone*

Tyson, 37, filed for bankruptcy in New York on August 1, which, taken in the most positive light possible, suggests that "Iron Mike" is trying to get his finances in order. According to his bankruptcy filing, he owes the following: $13.4-million to the IRS; $4-million to British tax authorities; more than $600,000 to seven law firms; $500,000 to financial manager Barry Hankerson; $450,000 to music producer Jimmy Henchmen; more than $50,000 in child support; and $800,000 to former trainer Stacey McKinley. Tyson was also sued in July by psychiatrist Mitchell Gibson for more than $29,000 in unpaid bills. According to the filing, Tyson's assets fell somewhere in the rather wide range of $10-million to $50-million, making him possibly unable to pay off his debts and therefore eligible for Chapter 11 protection.

So where did all the money go? Tyson is a notoriously impulsive spender. When his expenses became public record in 1997, they revealed that between '95 and '97, he spent $4.4-million on automobiles and motorcycles, including 17 vehicles that he gave away as gifts. In that time span, he also spent $747,000 on lawn care for his three estates. When he was in England for a fight in January 2000, Tyson reportedly required extensive persuasion from clearer-minded folks before deciding not to buy a Formula One racing car, but instead bought a watch that cost more than $1-million. His divorce from Robin Givens included a $10-million settlement, and his divorce from Monica Turner cost him $9-million.

Then there's the little matter of the $100-million-plus that Tyson claims ex-promoter Don King skimmed from him, money for which Tyson is suing in a case that is expected to go to court in early-2004. Tyson's financial future obviously rests on the result of that case.

But even if he wins and collects the full sum, how far can Tyson stretch that paltry $100-million windfall?

**—Eric Raskin**

# DICK SADLER, 1914-2003

"Call Dick Sadler a 'hustler' and he'll flash gold teeth in appreciation," wrote Hall of Fame boxing writer Jack Fiske in a 1968 column about the Hayward, California, manager-trainer, who died in early-June at age 88. "He was a hustling son-of-a-gun for his fighters."

Sadler's passing went virtually unnoticed by either the mainstream or boxing media, but there was a time when he was a major player, with a stable containing many top fighters, including a number of future Hall of Famers.

*Sadler laces up Foreman's gloves*

Sadler had a brief amateur and pro career, but was also a talented dancer and musician who played piano, drums, and saxophone.

"When I first met him, he'd just appeared in an Our Gang movie as a tap dancer," recalled Babe Sadler, his wife of 66 years. But it was in boxing that he would make his mark.

Sadler is probably best remembered for his association with George Foreman and Archie Moore, but during his lengthy career he also worked with other outstanding fighters, including Sonny Liston, Freddie Little, Tiger Jack Fox, and Charlie Shipes. He handled Moore the last 10 years of his career and was with Foreman throughout his first incarnation.

"I have always believed Dick Sadler was one of, if not the best trainer I have ever met," Foreman told THE RING. "Even when I made my second return into boxing I would always look back to his old advice, and many times it would lead me to safety, and many wins. I think boxing and Dick Sadler were my two big blessings in life."

Sadly, Sadler was stricken with Alzheimer's disease for the last nine years, and spent the final six years of his life in a nursing home.

"Even though he couldn't talk, Dick never stopped playing piano," said Babe Sadler. "And he never lost his sense of humor; I could still make him laugh right up until the end."

**—Nigel Collins**

# BEIRO-ISM IN THE FACE OF ADVERSITY

"I'm blind."

Already well-acquainted with ring announcer M. Mark Beiro, I was familiar with his outrageous sense of humor, so after hearing those two words at a July 12 card at Caesars Tahoe in Stateline, Nevada, I kept waiting for the punch line.

But it never came.

Beiro had already taken to sometimes wearing an eye patch after the ravages of diabetes had robbed him of the sight in his right eye last December. Seven months later, he awoke on the morning of the fights in Stateline to discover his other eye had failed him as well. He saw the world as if viewing it through wax paper.

Worried about fulfilling his obligation to Cedric Kushner Promotions, Beiro pushed aside concerns for his own health and found a ride to Caesars Tahoe. Unable to enter the ring, all Beiro asked for was someone to quietly feed him specific information off his carefully prepared script before he announced it. Positioned at ringside anyway to cover the fights, I gladly helped him out.

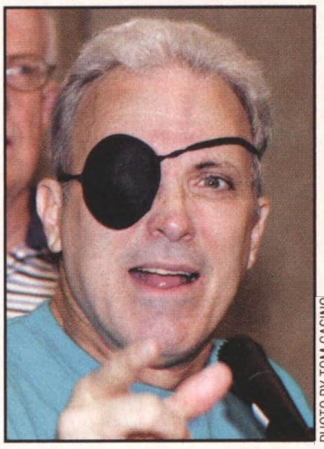


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO

*Beiro: No depth perception, plenty of depth of character*

Uninformed that a change had been made to the bout sheet, I fed Beiro the wrong information before I could cut him off. The crowd, unaware of his condition, mercilessly booed him as he offered the correction. If there were a bridge there, I would have happily jumped off it.

But there were more no mistakes, and Beiro not only persevered, he thrived. As the crowd hooted at a round-card girl, Beiro temporarily silenced them with his trademark jest, "Ladies and gentlemen, would you please stop whistling at my wife!"

On the way out of Caesars, eye patch in place, Beiro kept the mood light at his own expense. "Has anyone seen my parrot?" he joked.

Beiro returned home to Tampa, Florida, and was given an encouraging prognosis. As of press time, he had regained some vision in his left eye, and had already made his return to the ring, where his courage, determination, and professionalism should continue to see him through.

**—Mike Houser**

# TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

| DATE | WINNER/LOSER | NETWORK | DIVISION | SIGNIFICANCE | MATCHUP | RESULT |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 7-1-03 | Bones Adams Tech. Draw 4 Manuel Sepeda | ESPN2 | f | C+ | B- | D- |
| *Adams now winless in his last four fights; the last thing he needed was a new blowhole* | | | | | | |
| 7-3-03 | Bernard Dunne KO 1 Mario Lacey | Show | f | C | B | B- |
| *Dunne so pale he makes Ricky Hatton look like Nipsey Russell* | | | | | | |
| 7-3-03 | Carlos Quintana W 10 Vinroy Barrett | Show | w | C- | B- | C+ |
| *Easy win for Quintana, who won't have a lot of easy ones later on* | | | | | | |
| 7-5-03 | Virgil Hill W 10 Don Lalonde | ESPN | c | C- | C | D+ |
| *Just in case you were wondering what it would have looked like 15 years ago* | | | | | | |
| 7-8-03 | Joe Hutchinson W 10 Fernando Mena | ESPN2 | w | C | C+ | B- |
| *Hutchinson holds off a late charge to pull out disputed win in good, hard fight* | | | | | | |
| 7-11-03 | Orlando Salido KO 3 Freddy Neal | ESPN2 | jl | B- | A- | B |
| *You have to like a guy with a bad record who can punch like this* | | | | | | |
| 7-12-03 | Zab Judah W 12 DeMarcus Corley | HBO | jw | A | A- | D+ |
| *Aren't grudge fights supposed to be exciting?* | | | | | | |
| **7-12-03** | **Ricardo Mayorga W 12 Vernon Forrest** | **HBO** | **World w** | **A+** | **A** | **B+** |
| ***Anyone else hear Shane Mosley giggling?*** | | | | | | |
| 7-15-03 | Jeff Lacy W 12 Richard Grant | ESPN2 | sm | C+ | B+ | C- |
| *We'd tell Mia St. John to keep her day job, but she's about as good at that as she is at interviewing basketball players* | | | | | | |
| 7-18-03 | Richard Hall KO 2 Julian Letterlough | ESPN2 | lh | B- | A | A- |
| *Bombs away! Anyone else think Hall against Antonio Tarver would be interesting?* | | | | | | |
| 7-19-03 | Juan Diaz W 10 Francisco Lorenzo | Show | l | C+ | B | C+ |
| *There are a lot of tough fights in young Diaz' future* | | | | | | |
| 7-19-03 | Rocky Juarez KO 10 Antonio Diaz | Show | f | B- | B+ | B |
| *If you ask us, Juarez is every bit the potential star that Jermain Taylor is* | | | | | | |
| 7-22-03 | Brian Viloria KO 1 Luis Doria | ESPN2 | fl | C+ | C- | C |
| *Since when can Viloria punch?* | | | | | | |
| 7-25-03 | Scott Pemberton W 12 Omar Sheika | ESPN2 | sm | C+ | A | A- |
| *Someone forgot to tell Sheika that you have to fight in the middle rounds, too* | | | | | | |
| **7-26-03** | **J.C. Candelo KO 8 Julio Garcia** | **ESPN** | **jm** | **B** | **A** | **B-** |
| ***This says a lot about how good Winky Wright is*** | | | | | | |
| 7-26-03 | Manny Pacquiao KO 3 Emmanuel Lucero | HBO | IBF jf | A | D+ | C- |
| *Who at Main Events did Lucero tick off?* | | | | | | |
| 7-26-03 | Fernando Vargas KO 6 Fitz Vanderpool | HBO | m | A | D+ | B- |
| *Fitz, Junior Jones called; he wants his legs back* | | | | | | |
| 7-29-03 | Courtney Burton KO 8 Angel Manfredy | ESPN2 | jw | B | B | B+ |
| *Angel: Got chin?* | | | | | | |
| 7-31-03 | Ishe Smith W 10 David Estrada | Show | jm | C | A- | B- |
| *Smith becoming a heck of a bodypuncher; Estrada just outgunned* | | | | | | |
| 8-1-03 | Dale Brown W 10 Rich LaMontagne | ESPN2 | c | C | B | C+ |
| *Thank you, Dale, for saving us from another of LaMontagne's awful shotgun celebrations* | | | | | | |
| 8-5-03 | Hector Camacho Jr. W 10 Bryon Mackie | ESPN2 | jm | C | C | D |
| *In Camacho's defense, he probably couldn't hear Emanuel Steward's advice over all that booing* | | | | | | |
| 8-8-03 | Jermain Taylor W 12 Freddie Cuevas | ESPN2 | m | B | C- | C |
| *Cuevas couldn't have been more made for Taylor if he were strapped to a heavybag* | | | | | | |
| 8-9-03 | Francisco Bojado W 10 Lemuel Nelson | Show | w | C+ | B | C+ |
| *Just the kind of work Bojado needs if he's going to do something* | | | | | | |
| 8-9-03 | Teddy Reid KO 4 Elio Ortiz | Show | w | B- | B+ | A- |
| *This was darned good, even if it looked to us like Reid was playing possum and never in real trouble* | | | | | | |
| **8-9-03** | **Acelino Freitas KO 12 Jorge Barrios** | **Show** | **WBA jl** | **A** | **B-** | **A** |
| ***Freitas sure is more fun when in puncher mode, huh?*** | | | | | | |

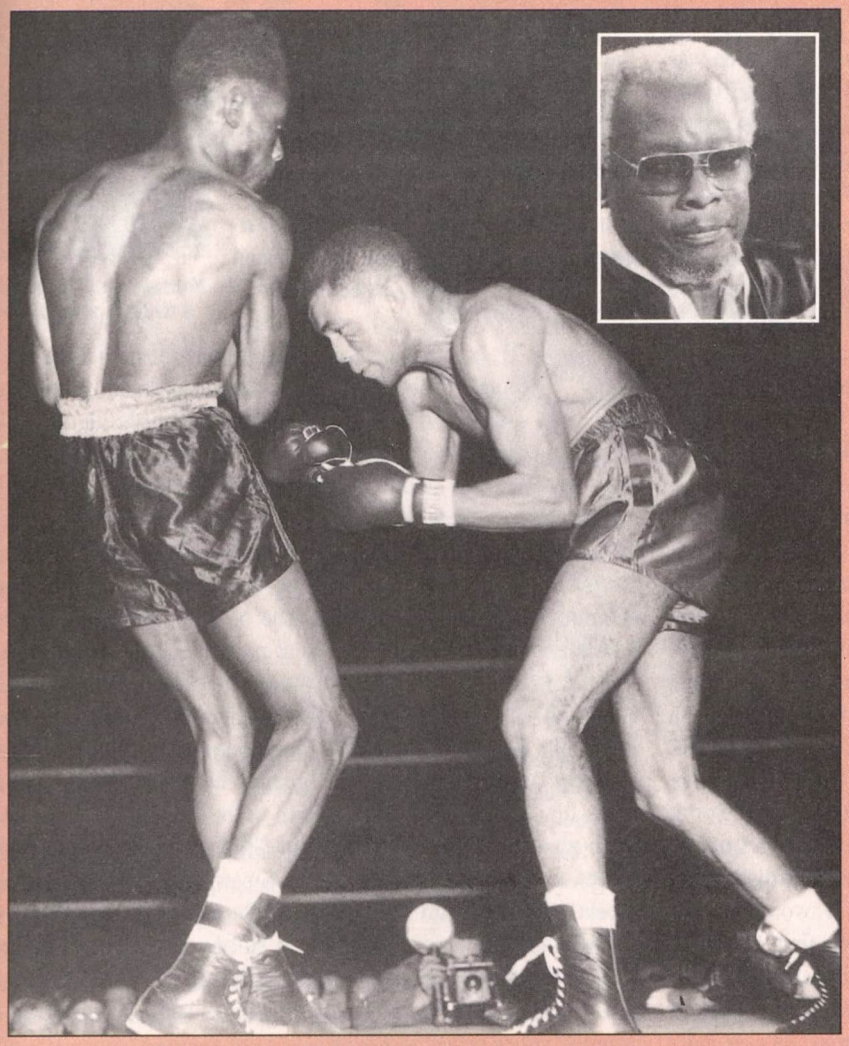
**Category Explanation:** "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World/Alphabet title fights in **bold** type)

**Division key:** h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

**Network key:** PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN—Fox SportsNet; Uni—Univision; Telef—Telefutura; Telem—Telemundo; HBO L—HBO Latino

# WESLEY MOUZON, 1927-2003



*Mouzon battling Montgomery, and in his later years (inset)*

If he had fought today, rather than in the 1940s, Wesley Mouzon, who died of kidney cancer in July at age 75, would probably have become lightweight champion.

Mouzon was a true teenage sensation, and had already drawn with Ike Williams and knocked out Bob Montgomery by the time he was 19. But just when it seemed that he was about to become a star, Mouzon's career was suddenly over. He was knocked out by Montgomery in a rematch and promptly retired due to a detached retina. According to Mouzon, his eye was injured prior to the second Montgomery fight, but he went through with it anyway in order to make one final payday.

"Today, I would have had laser surgery," said Mouzon in '93. "But in my day, a detached retina pretty much meant you were out of boxing forever."

Mouzon was born in Kingstree, South Carolina, and moved to Philadelphia with his family when still a boy. He turned pro in June '44 and had his final fight in November '46, leaving an overall record of 23-3-1 (9).

Mouzon, a soft-spoken, dignified man who inspired trust and respect, enjoyed considerable success over the years as a trainer. Among his better-known fighters were former light heavyweight and cruiserweight titleholder Dwight Muhammad Qawi and super middleweight contender Tony Thornton. Mouzon was still active, training fighters at the Front Street Gym in Philadelphia, until his death.

**—Nigel Collins**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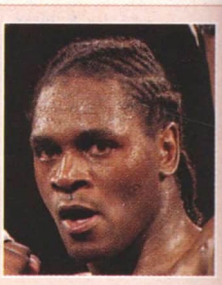
# OUTSIDE THE ROPES

*Parks: Noted trainer succumbs to lung cancer*

Boxing endured yet another ring death in mid-July, although this one was quite unusual and not necessarily the result of the fallen fighter's chosen profession. Heavyweight trialhorse **Bradley Rone** collapsed and died at the end of the first round of his bout with **Billy Zumbrun** in Cedar City, Utah, but no punches that appeared damaging were landed by Zumbrun. Instead, Rone's heart failed him, due, it is believed, to a combination of his weight (an out-of-shape 259 pounds) and depression he was feeling as a result of his mother's death one day earlier. Rone, 34, who had lost 26 straight fights coming in, took the fight on one day's notice to earn money to pay for his mother's funeral … Also passing recently was veteran trainer **Tommy Parks**, who died of lung cancer in his native New Jersey in late-July. Parks fought professionally as a welterweight in the late-1940s, but was far better known for his work in the corner of several championship-level boxers, including **Bobby Czyz**, **Livingstone Bramble**, **Ray Mercer**, and **Tracy Patterson** … Welterweight prospect **Alexander Vetoux** died in a swimming accident in a river in his native Ukraine in late-June at the age of 23. Vetoux had compiled a 22-1 (18) record in four years as a pro, suffering his first loss just three days before his death … Two South African boxers were killed eight days apart in July, when **Luvuyo Kakaza** was shot by suspected car thieves, and **Mandisi Sizani** was then stabbed by a gang of youths. Kakaza, 38, won the South African welterweight title in 1994 and retired one fight later with a 36-7-2 (30) record. Sizani, 24, held a provincial junior middleweight title at the time of his death and finished with a record of 14-2 (11) … In more sad news, former welterweight contender **Kirkland Laing** fell from a fourth-floor balcony in England in early-July and was in critical condition as a result. The 49-year-old Laing is best known for outpointing **Roberto Duran** in 1982's Upset of the Year … The wife of former heavyweight champ **Ingemar Johansson** disclosed in July that her husband has been suffering from Alzheimer's disease since 1995. Hall of Famer Johansson, 71, was inducted in 2002, but failed to attend the ceremony … Rounding out the exceptionally depressing portion of this issue's roundup, former heavyweight beltholder **Frank Bruno** checked into a clinic in his native England in early-July to seek treatment for depression … Groundbreaking was held in early-July for a new school in Boyle Heights, California, with **Oscar De La Hoya's** name on it. The first new public school in Boyle Heights in 76 years will be called Oscar De La Hoya Animo Charter High School … The New York State Athletic Commission appeared prepared as of press time to lift the suspension of **James Butler**, effective October 1. Butler has done jail time and undergone counseling since his postfight attack on opponent **Richard Grant** in November '01 … Heavyweight prospect **Audley Harrison** was granted a promoter's license in early-July. A-Force Promotions will be headed by Harrison and his business manager, **Hazel Bruno-Gilbert** … If you get a kick out of seeing boxers pop up on the Silver Screen, check out the recently released film *This Thing Of Ours*, and you'll recognize former light heavyweight contender **Bobby Cassidy** (the father of THE RING correspondent **Bobby Cassidy Jr.**) in a speaking role as an Irish gangster. Cassidy previously had a small role as a ringside police officer in *Rocky*.



*Harrison: Looking to be a force in promoting*

## THE PUNCHLINES

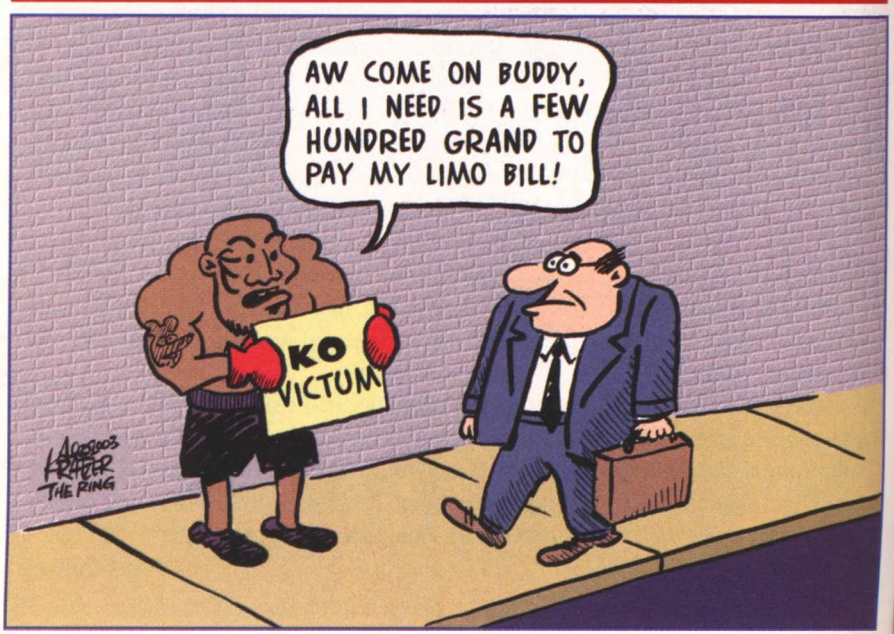
"You guys say he's won 15 of his last 16 fights, but I could beat those guys with this gut."

—Buddy McGirt, co-trainer of Fernando Vargas, on Vargas opponent Fitz Vanderpool, before pulling up his shirt to reveal his ample midsection

"Freitas needs to detach his umbilical cord from his mother, who's accompanying Freitas to Miami. But it's better [that she's coming], because she will be the only one able to recognize him after the fight."

—Jorge Barrios, prior to his title challenge against Acelino Freitas

## AL KRATZER'S VIEW



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# RATINGS ANALYSIS

## POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **ROY JONES**
   Heavyweight/Light Heavyweight
2. **BERNARD HOPKINS**
   Middleweight
3. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Featherweight
4. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Junior Middleweight
5. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Junior Welterweight
6. **ERIK MORALES**
   Featherweight
7. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Lightweight
8. **RICARDO MAYORGA**
   Welterweight
9. **VERNON FORREST**
   Welterweight
10. **SHANE MOSLEY**
    Junior Middleweight

*(For period ended August 12, 2003)*

**HEAVYWEIGHTS:** No changes.

**CRUISERWEIGHTS:** Coming off a good win over Jorge Castro, Sebastian Rothman (10th last issue) switches places with Virgil Hill (ninth last issue).

**LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS:** Bruno Girard (eighth last issue) has retired and been removed from the ratings, as has Lou Del Valle (ninth last issue), who is dropped because he has not fought in more than a year. Their departures necessitate a reassessment and restructuring at the lower rungs. Clinton Woods (unranked last issue) is now number eight, while Richard Hall (unranked last issue) is number nine thanks to his up-from-the-floor kayo of Julian Letterlough.

**SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS:** No changes.

**MIDDLEWEIGHTS:** Rodney Jones (seventh last issue) jumps to number five following his strong performance against Jason Papillion. Hassine Cherifi (sixth last issue) exits after being stopped by second-ranked Howard Eastman. Cherifi's departure bumps everybody rated below him up one position and makes room at number 10 for streaking Hector Javier Velazco.

**JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS:** J.C. Candelo (unranked last issue) punched his way back into the ratings at number eight with an emphatic kayo of Julio Garcia (10th last issue). Garcia is gone. Candelo's entry forces Alex Garcia down from eighth to ninth, and Bronco McKart down from ninth to 10th.

**WELTERWEIGHTS:** Teddy Reid (unranked last issue) is aboard at number eight due to his kayo of Elio Ortiz (eighth last issue). Ortiz exits.

**JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS:** Zab Judah advances from third to second on the strength of his decision over DeMarcus Corley (fourth last issue), while "Chop Chop" slips to fifth. Judah's progression forces Arturo Gatti (second last issue) down one spot. Vivian Harris (fifth last issue) takes over the fourth position thanks to his win over Souleyman M'Baye.

**LIGHTWEIGHTS:** Courtney Burton (unranked last issue) crashes the ratings at number six due to his knockout of Angel Manfredy (fifth last issue). Manfredy falls out of the rankings. Undefeated Artur Grigorian (sixth last issue) moves up one notch due to Manfredy's demotion.

**JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS:** No changes.

**FEATHERWEIGHTS:** Manuel Medina (fifth last issue) trades places with Scott Harrison (fourth last issue) following the Mexican veteran's upset decision over Harrison.

**JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS:** Previously unranked Mahyar Monshipour rockets into the third spot after knocking out Salim Medjkoune to claim the WBA belt. Medjkoune tumbles from third to sixth. Monshipour's ascension forces everybody ranked below him down one spot, while Nedal Hussein (10th last issue) exits.

**BANTAMWEIGHTS:** No changes.

**JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS:** No changes.

**FLYWEIGHTS:** No changes.

**JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS:** Kermin Guardia improves from 10th to eighth thanks to a good win over Jhon Molina. The shakeup at the bottom also results in Mhikiza Myekeni advancing from eighth to seventh, Jose Victor Burgos slipping from seventh to ninth, and Fahlan Sakkreerin falling from ninth to 10th.

**STRAWWEIGHTS:** Yutaka Niida came out of retirement and lost a narrow 12-round decision to second-ranked Noel Arambulet, earning the number-four spot. Niida's return pushes down everybody previously rated below the third position one place each, while Isaac Bustos (10th last issue) departs.

**POUND-FOR-POUND:** No changes. ■

# THE RING RATINGS

## *For Period Ended August 12, 2003*

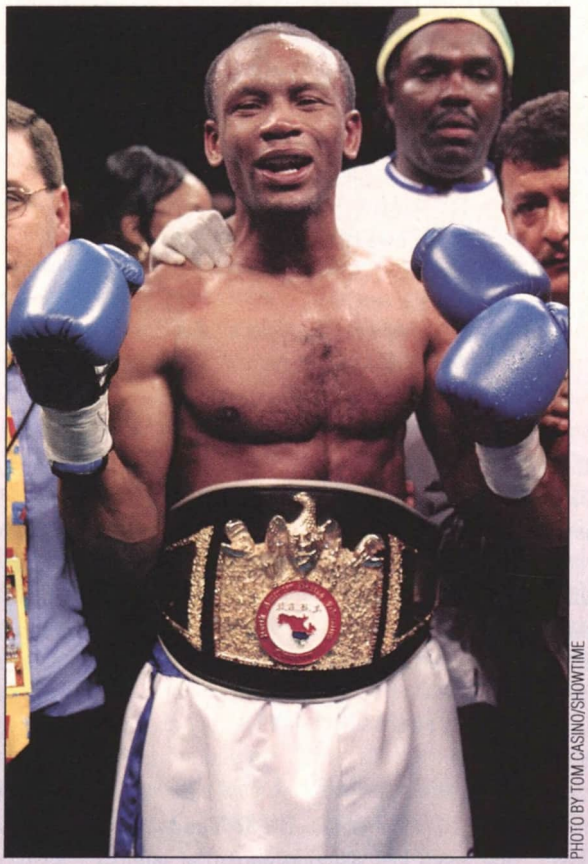

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

*Teddy Reid entered the welterweight rankings at number eight after flattening Elio Ortiz*

## How Our Ratings Are Compiled

**Fighters recognized as champions by THE RING are rated at the top of their division, with the top 10 contenders listed below.**

**Championship vacancies can be filled in one of two ways: by unifying all three alphabet titles in a division; or by winning a box-off between THE RING'S number-one and number-two contenders, or, in certain instances, a box-off between our number-one and number-three contenders.**

**The only three occasions when a fighter will lose his championship status are when he retires, moves to another weight division, or is defeated in a championship bout.**

**Ratings By The Editors**
**Records By Fight Fax Inc.**

### HEAVYWEIGHTS
*Weight Unlimited*

**Champ: LENNOX LEWIS**
England 41-2-1 (32)

1. **CHRIS BYRD**
Flint, MI 36-2 (20)
2. **CORRIE SANDERS**
South Africa 39-2 (29)
3. **ROY JONES**
Pensacola, FL 48-1 (38)
4. **VITALI KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine 32-2 (31)
5. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Atlanta, GA 38-6-2 (25)
6. **DAVID TUA**
New Zealand 42-3-1 (37)
7. **HASIM RAHMAN**
Baltimore, MD 35-4-1 (29)
8. **MIKE TYSON**
Catskill, NY 50-4 (44)
9. **WLADIMIR KLITSCHKO**
Ukraine 40-2 (37)
10. **JOHN RUIZ**
Chelsea, MA 38-5-1 (27)

### JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 154 pounds*

**Champ: OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
Los Angeles, CA 36-2 (29)

1. **WINKY WRIGHT**
St. Petersburg, FL 45-3 (25)
2. **FERNANDO VARGAS**
Oxnard, CA 23-2 (21)
3. **JAVIER CASTILLEJO**
Spain 55-5 (37)
4. **DANIEL SANTOS**
Puerto Rico 27-2-1 (20)
5. **SHANE MOSLEY**
Pomona, CA 38-2 (35)
6. **KASSIM OUMA**
W. Palm Beach, FL 17-1-1 (11)
7. **VERNO PHILLIPS**
Aurora, CO 35-9-1 (18)
8. **J.C. CANDELO**
Colombia 27-5-3 (19)
9. **ALEX GARCIA**
Mexico 21-0 (20)
10. **BRONCO McKART**
Monroe, MI 46-5 (30)

### FEATHERWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 126 pounds*

**Champ: MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
Mexico 57-3 (40)

1. **ERIK MORALES**
Mexico 44-1 (33)
2. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 40-2 (32)
3. **DERRICK GAINER**
Pensacola, FL 39-5-1 (24)
4. **MANUEL MEDINA**
Mexico 62-13 (28)
5. **SCOTT HARRISON**
Scotland 19-2-1 (9)
6. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
Albuquerque, NM 52-3-2 (28)
7. **LEHLO LEDWABA**
South Africa 34-2-1 (22)
8. **WILLIAM ABELYAN**
Glendale, CA 23-4-1 (12)
9. **MICHAEL BRODIE**
England 34-1 (22)
10. **ROCKY JUAREZ**
Houston, TX 17-0 (13)

### JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 122 pounds*

**Champ: PAULIE AYALA**
Ft. Worth, TX 34-2 (12)

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
Philippines 37-2-1 (28)
2. **OSCAR LARIOS**
Mexico 48-3-1 (33)
3. **MAHYAR MONSHIPOUR**
France 23-2-2 (14)
4. **JOSE LUIS VALBUENA**
Venezuela 22-2-1 (12)
5. **ISRAEL VAZQUEZ**
Mexico 34-3 (25)
6. **SALIM MEDJKOUNE**
France 41-4-1 (21)
7. **WILLIE JORRIN**
Sacramento, CA 29-1-1 (13)
8. **JOAN GUZMAN**
Dominican Republic 19-0 (15)
9. **OSAMU SATO**
Japan 26-2-3 (15)
10. **YODDAMRONG SITHYODTHONG**
Thailand 34-1-1 (18)

### BANTAMWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 118 pounds*

**Champ: Vacant**

1. **RAFAEL MARQUEZ**
Mexico 29-3 (27)
2. **VEERAPOL SAHAPROM**
Thailand 41-1-1 (29)
3. **TIM AUSTIN**
Cincinnati, OH 25-1-1 (22)
4. **JOHNNY BREDAHL**
Denmark 53-2 (26)
5. **CRUZ CARBAJAL**
Mexico 23-11-1 (19)
6. **TOSHIAKI NISHIOKA**
Japan 23-3-2 (14)
7. **PETE FRISSINA**
Tarpon Springs, FL 27-3-1 (15)
8. **SILENCE MABUZA**
South Africa 14-0 (13)
9. **GENARO GARCIA**
Mexico 29-4 (17)
10. **HERIBERTO RUIZ**
Mexico 27-2-2 (13)

## CRUISERWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 190 pounds*

**Champ: Vacant**

1. **JAMES TONEY**
   Ann Arbor, MI 66-4-2 (42)
2. **VASSILIY JIROV**
   Kazakhstan 32-1 (28)
3. **JEAN-MARC MORMECK**
   France 29-2 (21)
4. **WAYNE BRAITHWAITE**
   Guyana 19-0 (16)
5. **JOHNNY NELSON**
   England 42-12-2 (28)
6. **GUILLERMO JONES**
   Panama 29-2-2 (22)
7. **O'NEIL BELL**
   Atlanta, GA 21-1-1 (20)
8. **EZRA SELLERS**
   Washington, D.C. 26-5 (24)
9. **SEBASTIAN ROTHMAN**
   South Africa 17-1-2 (12)
10. **VIRGIL HILL**
    Bismarck, ND 49-4 (23)

## LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 175 pounds*

**Champ: ROY JONES**
Pensacola, FL 48-1 (38)

1. **ANTONIO TARVER**
   Orlando, FL 21-1 (17)
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI**
   Germany 48-0 (38)
3. **GLENCOFFE JOHNSON**
   Miami, FL 39-9-1 (27)
4. **ERIC HARDING**
   Philadelphia, PA 21-3-1 (7)
5. **MEHDI SAHNOUNE**
   France 24-0 (21)
6. **JULIO GONZALEZ**
   Huntington Beach, CA 34-1 (22)
7. **MONTELL GRIFFIN**
   Chicago, IL 44-4 (29)
8. **CLINTON WOODS**
   England 35-2 (21)
9. **RICHARD HALL**
   Winter Haven, FL 26-4 (25)
10. **GEORGE JONES**
    Paterson, NJ 19-2 (13)

## SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 168 pounds*

**Champ: Vacant**

1. **JOE CALZAGHE**
   Wales 36-0 (29)
2. **SVEN OTTKE**
   Germany 31-0 (6)
3. **ANTWUN ECHOLS**
   Davenport, IA 29-4-1 (26)
4. **MARKUS BEYER**
   Germany 27-1 (11)
5. **ERIC LUCAS**
   Canada 36-5-3 (13)
6. **BYRON MITCHELL**
   Ozark, AL 25-3-1 (18)
7. **CHARLES BREWER**
   Philadelphia, PA 39-9 (27)
8. **MADS LARSEN**
   Denmark 44-1 (37)
9. **ANTHONY MUNDINE**
   Australia 18-1 (14)
10. **SYD VANDERPOOL**
    Canada 34-2 (23)

## MIDDLEWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 160 pounds*

**Champ: BERNARD HOPKINS**
Philadelphia, PA 42-2-1 (31)

1. **WILLIAM JOPPY**
   Washington, D.C. 34-2-1 (25)
2. **HOWARD EASTMAN**
   England 38-1 (35)
3. **ROBERT ALLEN**
   Atlanta, GA 35-4 (26)
4. **TITO MENDOZA**
   Panama 28-4 (21)
5. **RODNEY JONES**
   Lafayette, LA 30-3 (19)
6. **SERGEY TATEVOSYAN**
   Russia 18-3 (13)
7. **JERMAIN TAYLOR**
   Little Rock, AK 17-0 (12)
8. **CARL DANIELS**
   St. Louis, MO 48-4-1 (30)
9. **EVANS OURE ASHIRA**
   Denmark 22-0 (12)
10. **HECTOR JAVIER VELAZCO**
    Argentina 29-2-1 (14)

## WELTERWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 147 pounds*

**Champ: RICARDO MAYORGA**
Nicaragua 25-3-1 (22)

1. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA 35-2 (26)
2. **ANTONIO MARGARITO**
   Mexico 28-3 (19)
3. **CORY SPINKS**
   St. Louis, MO 31-2 (11)
4. **THOMAS DAMGAARD**
   Denmark 32-0 (25)
5. **MICHELE PICCIRILLO**
   Italy 39-2 (25)
6. **MANUEL GOMEZ**
   Mexico 23-10 (18)
7. **ANDREW LEWIS**
   Guyana 22-2-1 (20)
8. **TEDDY REID**
   Adelphi, MD 22-5-1 (16)
9. **JAWAID KHALIQ**
   England 21-1-1 (13)
10. **HECTOR QUIROZ**
    Mexico 37-7-1 (30)

## JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 140 pounds*

**Champ: KOSTYA TSZYU**
Australia 30-1 (24)

1. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. 52-3 (30)
2. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY 29-1 (21)
3. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ 36-6 (28)
4. **VIVIAN HARRIS**
   Brooklyn, NY 23-1-1 (16)
5. **DeMARCUS CORLEY**
   Washington, D.C. 28-2-1 (16)
6. **OKTAY URKAL**
   Germany 33-1 (10)
7. **DIOBELYS HURTADO**
   Miami, FL 35-3-1 (23)
8. **RICKY HATTON**
   England 32-0 (24)
9. **OMAR WEIS**
   Los Angeles, CA 36-4-3 (16)
10. **MIGUEL COTTO**
    Puerto Rico 16-0 (13)

## LIGHTWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 135 pounds*

**Champ: FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
Grand Rapids, MI 30-0 (20)

1. **JOSE LUIS CASTILLO**
   Mexico 47-6-1 (43)
2. **LEONARD DORIN**
   Canada 21-0-1 (7)
3. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO 35-2-1 (17)
4. **JUAN LAZCANO**
   El Paso, TX 32-2-1 (24)
5. **ARTUR GRIGORIAN**
   Uzbekistan 36-0 (22)
6. **COURTNEY BURTON**
   Benton Harbor, MI 19-1(11)
7. **ALEJANDRO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico 49-5-1 (33)
8. **JULIEN LORCY**
   France 55-3-2 (40)
9. **JAVIER JAUREGUI**
   Mexico 46-10-2 (33)
10. **ALDO RIOS**
    Argentina 34-2 (6)

## JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 130 pounds*

**Champ: Vacant**

1. **ACELINO FREITAS**
   Brazil 34-0 (31)
2. **JOEL CASAMAYOR**
   Miami, FL 29-1 (18)
3. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Mexico 39-2 (28)
4. **PHILLIP NDOU**
   South Africa 31-1 (30)
5. **DIEGO CORRALES**
   Sacramento, CA 37-1 (31)
6. **STEVE FORBES**
   Las Vegas, NV 23-1 (6)
7. **YODSANAN NANTHACHAI**
   Thailand 39-2-1 (32)
8. **SIRIMONGKOL SINGMANASSAK**
   Thailand 40-1 (23)
9. **CARLOS HERNANDEZ**
   Bellflower, CA 39-3-1 (24)
10. **CASSIUS BALOYI**
    South Africa 28-1 (16)

## JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 115 pounds*

**Champ: Vacant**

1. **MASAMORI TOKUYAMA**
   North Korea 29-2-1 (8)
2. **ALEXANDER MUNOZ**
   Venezuela 23-0 (23)
3. **FERNANDO MONTIEL**
   Mexico 26-0-1 (20)
4. **LUIS PEREZ**
   Nicaragua 21-1 (14)
5. **MARTIN CASTILLO**
   Mexico 23-1 (14)
6. **FELIX MACHADO**
   Venezuela 22-4-1 (11)
7. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia 30-3-1 (20)
8. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia 38-0 (28)
9. **OSCAR ANDRADE**
   Mexico 30-22-1 (17)
10. **KATSUSHIGE KAWASHIMA**
    Japan 23-3 (16)

## FLYWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 112 pounds*

**Champ: Vacant**

1. **ERIC MOREL**
   Madison, WI 33-0 (18)
2. **PONGSAKLEK WONJONGKAM**
   Thailand 47-2 (25)
3. **IRENE PACHECO**
   Colombia 27-0 (20)
4. **MZUKISI SIKALI**
   South Africa 27-4-2 (16)
5. **HAWK MAKEPULA**
   South Africa 20-2 (13)
6. **MALCOLM TUNACAO**
   Philippines 14-1-2 (10)
7. **PETER CULSHAW**
   England 23-1-1 (12)
8. **OMAR NARVAEZ**
   Argentina 14-0-2 (8)
9. **DAMAEN KELLY**
   Ireland 18-1 (8)
10. **LORENZO PARRA**
    Venezuela 21-0 (17)

## JR. FLYWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 108 pounds*

**Champ: ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
Nicaragua 32-2-1 (21)

1. **JORGE ARCE**
   Mexico 34-3-1 (25)
2. **BEBIS MENDOZA**
   Colombia 28-2 (23)
3. **PICHIT SIRIWAT**
   Thailand 27-2 (12)
4. **NELSON DIEPPA**
   Puerto Rico 19-2-2 (11)
5. **YOSAM CHOI**
   South Korea 24-2 (13)
6. **MELCHOR COB-CASTRO**
   Mexico 66-9-4 (30)
7. **MHIKIZA MYEKENI**
   South Africa 17-1 (6)
8. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Colombia 35-2 (21)
9. **JOSE VICTOR BURGOS**
   Mexico 36-13-2 (21)
10. **FAHLAN SAKKREERIN**
    Thailand 50-3-2 (20)

## STRAWWEIGHTS
*Weight Limit: 105 pounds*

**Champ: Vacant**

1. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico 30-1-1 (19)
2. **NOEL ARAMBULET**
   Venezuela 20-2-1 (10)
3. **EDGAR CARDENAS**
   Mexico 30-10-2 (16)
4. **YUTAKA NIIDA**
   Japan 14-1-3 (7)
5. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand 49-2-2 (17)
6. **KEITARO HOSHINO**
   Japan 23-10 (6)
7. **JOMA GAMBOA**
   Philippines 32-7-2 (22)
8. **ROBERTO LEYVA**
   Mexico 21-2-1 (18)
9. **DANIEL REYES**
   Colombia 29-1-1 (24)
10. **JUAN PALACIOS**
    Nicaragua 13-2 (9)

# RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

## GOING ONCE ... GOING TWICE ... SOLD!

The legs are the first things to go in sports. And the very last thing, undoubtedly, is the ability to make a buck off of your name. For proof of that we have to look no farther than former baseball superstar Jose Canseco, who recently held an auction on his Web site and solicited bids (the opening one of which was $2,500) from people who wanted to spend an afternoon with him at his Florida home. The "lucky" winning bidders got to do everything from sitting around the pool with the big guy to perusing his memorabilia.

Of course, Canseco had lots of time to entertain everyone because he was under house arrest relating to his involvement in a nightclub melee two years ago. Still, it was quite the surreal scene. Hundred-buck-a-pop autograph sessions, shameless souvenir plugging on QVC, and personal appearances at electronics store openings are bad enough, but this was the kind of amazing money grab that should have earned Canseco a Gold Glove.

Not that boxers haven't ever stooped to this kind of thing. A few months ago, three-division former titlist Iran Barkley offered e-Bay bidders the chance to eat dinner with him at a Queens, New York, seafood restaurant. (Who'd have thought you could ever sit across the dinner table from a guy nicknamed "The Blade" in Queens without being part of the Gambino crime family?) Pretty appealing, huh? Everyone wants to break bread with a guy who's so scary looking, he could shuck a clam by simply staring at it.

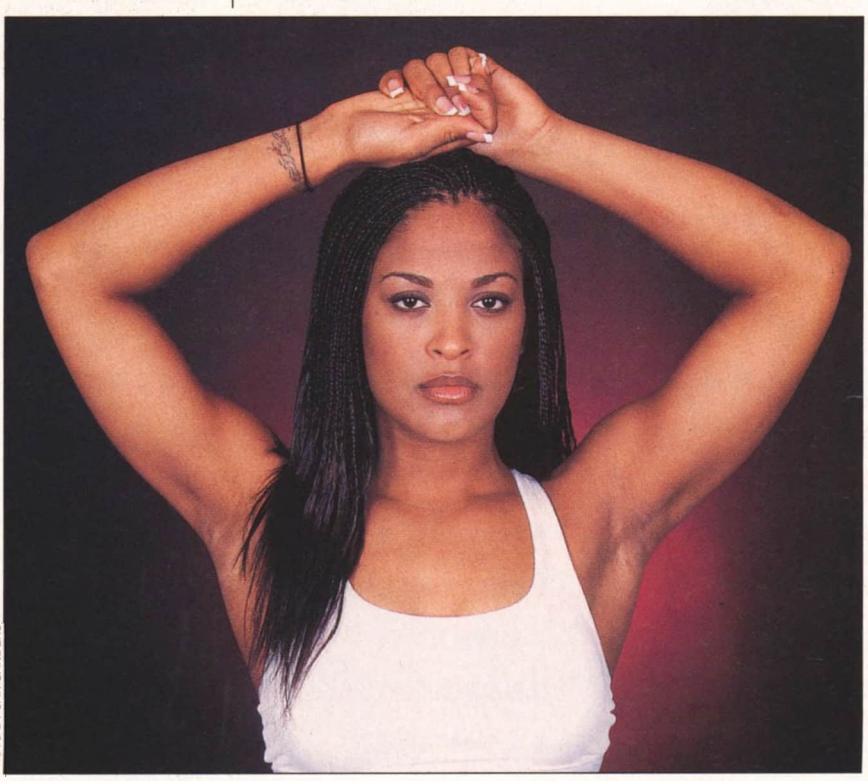

PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

*Wanna date?*

Couldn't Barkley have come up with a better idea than that? For goodness sake, plenty of other people in the fight game have. Just look at all the goodies that are being offered to boxing fans by the on-line auction houses these days. Everything from the chance to move your family of five into Fernando Vargas' customized limo for a week to ...

**1) A training session with Lennox Lewis:** The winning bidder gets to pull on the sweatsuit and endure the same kind of challenging two-a-days the heavyweight king was subjected to while preparing for Vitali Klitschko. Sample workout: Two city blocks of roadwork, three jumping jacks, a minute-and-a-half on the speedbag, then lunch. After that are three rounds of non-contact sparring, two sit-ups, and dinner.

**2) The chance to be Bernard Hopkins' next opponent:** What a great opportunity. You get to see your name in the headlines and maybe even have your face on the cover of THE RING. Best of all, you don't ever have to take a single punch because the middleweight king will inevitably pull out of the bout because he's dissatisfied with the terms of his contract. So you then get to brag to all of the guys at the office or the construction site that an ex-con who calls himself "The Executioner" ducked *you*.

**3) The opportunity to select Johnny Tapia's next tattoo:** And its location. Good luck finding someplace that isn't already covered with ink. Tapia's right eyelid and the big toe on his left foot were still available as of yesterday.

**4) A date with Laila Ali:** Wow! Rumble, young man, rumble! Granted, winning this prize could have its drawbacks. Laila could be drawn into an impromptu battle with some girl who looks at her the wrong way, and your self-esteem sure could suffer if she thinks it's cute to give you a nickname like "The Big Ugly Bear" or "The Rabbit." But let's look at the spit bucket as half-full. Laila's awfully attractive, she might be able to provide some inside information on whether or not Daddy really believes he beat Doug Jones, and she can kick the ass of any loudmouth who tries to pick a fight with you in a nightclub. And if things go really well on the date … uh, it sure would be fun to see if she's so fast that she could hit the light switch and be next to you in bed before the room goes dark.

**5) Scoring lessons from Nevada judges:** This seminar would be conducted by Duane Ford, whose scorecards through the years have created more illusions in Las Vegas than Siegfried and Roy. Ford would instruct the winning bidder on all the nuances of Nevada scoring and how a judge should always favor the aggressor. In Nevada, it would be pointed out, "effective aggression" is anything from giving the opponent a dirty look to belching in his general direction.

**6) Broadcasting lessons from Professor George Foreman:** As boxing mike men go, Big George is Don Dunphy with a dunce cap. Still, that doesn't mean the guy can't teach everyone how to be entertaining on the air. Learn all of Foreman's secrets of success. For example, if a puncher is facing a boxer, predict that the plodding bomber will utilize his jab and movement to win a decision—that is, unless the feather-fisted stylist takes him out with one punch first. If a guy is fast, say he's slow. If he's weak, describe him as strong. Label four different guys the single best fighter in a particular division, and categorize the weight class as both talent-starved and deep at the same time. Above all, though, remember to always thoroughly exasperate your broadcast partners for your own amusement.

**7) Hairstyling tips from Christy Martin:** If "The Coal Miner's Daughter" could take the time to fix her coiffure right in the middle of a press conference slugfest with Ali, then she ought to be great at offering advice on how to repair split ends and prevent frizzies.

**8) Thai cooking lessons from flyweight Pongsaklek Wonjongkam:** To avoid any embarrassing situations, the winning bidder should be forewarned that Yodsanan Nanthachai and Sirimongkol Singmanassak are top-10 junior lightweights, not ingredients in the chicken satays.

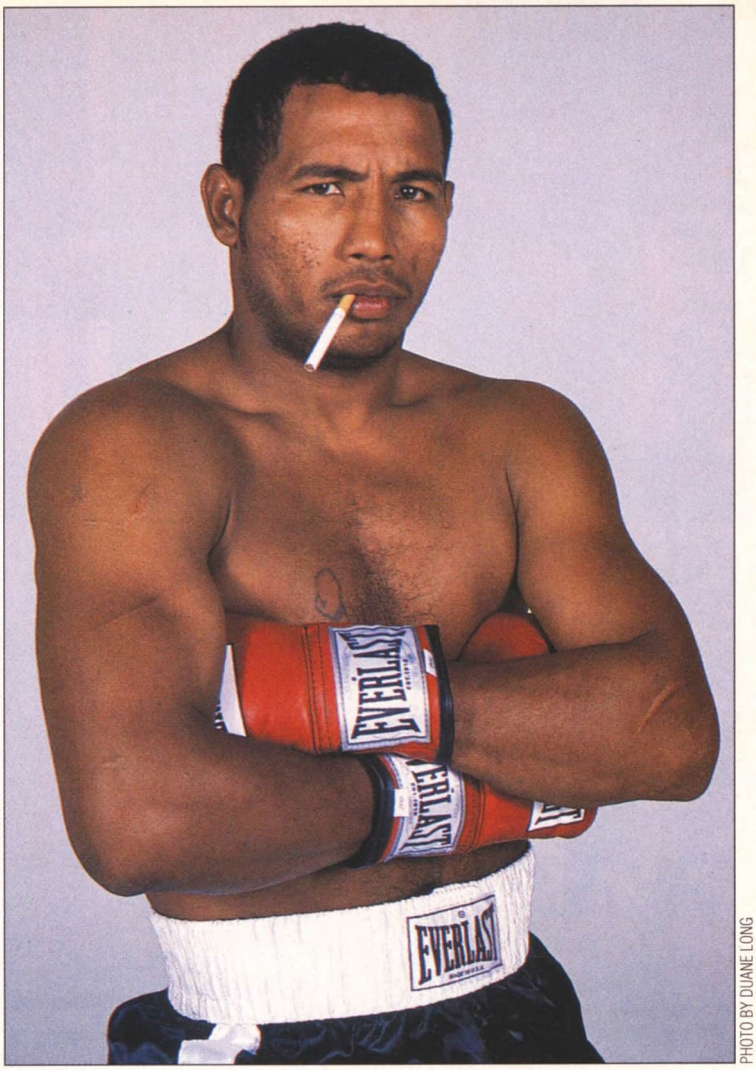


PHOTO BY DUANE LONG

***You tell him to put it out!***

**9) A day with Chris Byrd:** While this wouldn't be nearly as exciting as a night spent with Mike Tyson in a Brooklyn hotel lobby, it's nonetheless a pretty good prize. Because Byrd has this amazing knack for getting people to avoid him (just look at how good Lewis and Roy Jones have been at it), he'd be great to pal around with for an afternoon. If nobody wants anything to do with him, just think of all the people who wouldn't infringe on your personal space as you two guys hung out and talked about things like head feints, lateral movement, and the Klitschkos: panhandlers, solicitors, street peddlers, squeegee men, tourists asking for directions, clipboard-toting dorks taking surveys, drunks in bars who want to talk about the political climate in Kazakhstan, etc.

**10) The chance to light up with Ricardo Mayorga in the no-smoking section of your choice:** The winning bidder and the welterweight king would get to puff away on, say, an airliner traveling across the U.S., in one of the non-smoking rooms of a four-star hotel, in the waiting room of a pulmonary specialist, even in a New York City watering hole frequented by "The Big Apple's" Lucky Strike-loathing mayor, Mike Bloomberg. Who's going to have the nerve to tell Mayorga to put out his butt without fear of getting knocked on theirs? ■

# CAMERA CLICKS

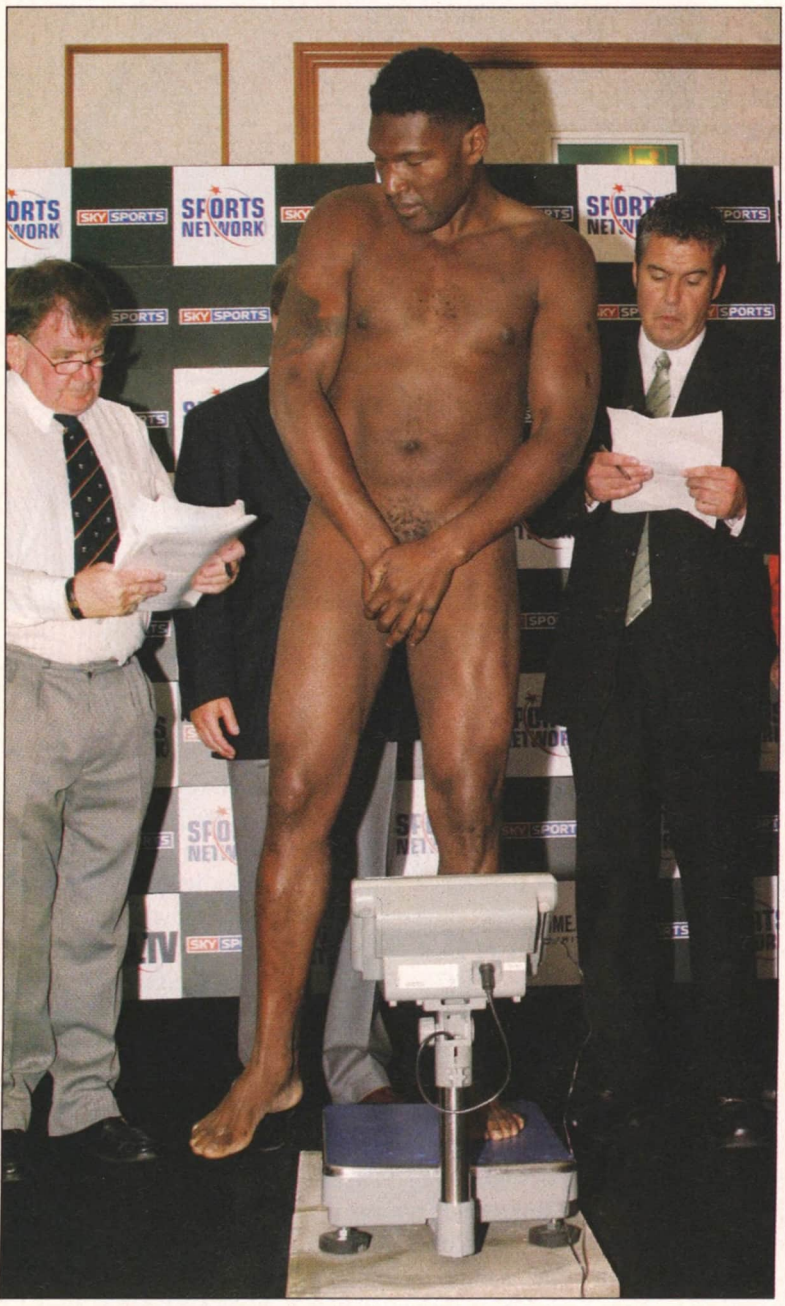


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

*Apparently the revolutionary technique of having two people hold a towel in front of the scale hasn't made its way to Wales yet, leaving cruiserweight Bruce Scott with only one method for covering himself up. At least Scott didn't have to deal with the embarrassment that would accompany being able to cover everything with just one hand.*

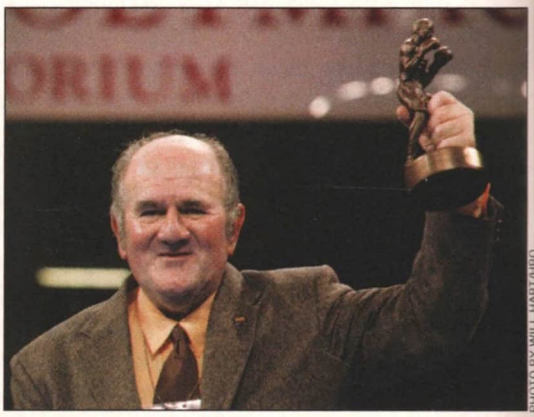

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

*No, HBO's Harold Lederman isn't picking up the Best Voice in Broadcasting Award. He's actually receiving the 2003 World Boxing Hall of Fame President's Award, given for lifetime achievement in boxing. Lederman, a 1997 WBHOF inductee, collected the statuette at the HBO fight card at Los Angeles' Grand Olympic Auditorium in July.*

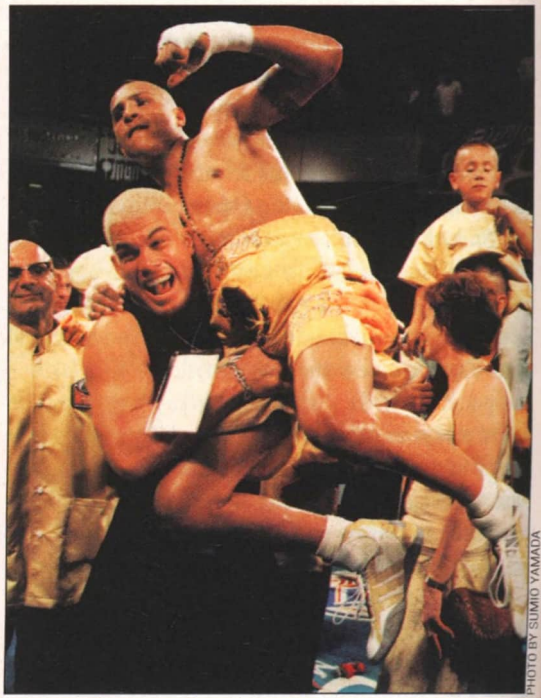

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

*What was Fernando Vargas' reward for winning his comeback fight with Fitz Vanderpool by sixth-round TKO? A bodyslam from Ultimate Fighting star Tito Ortiz. We're thinking the most unpleasant part of this for Vargas had to be the placement of Ortiz' right hand.*

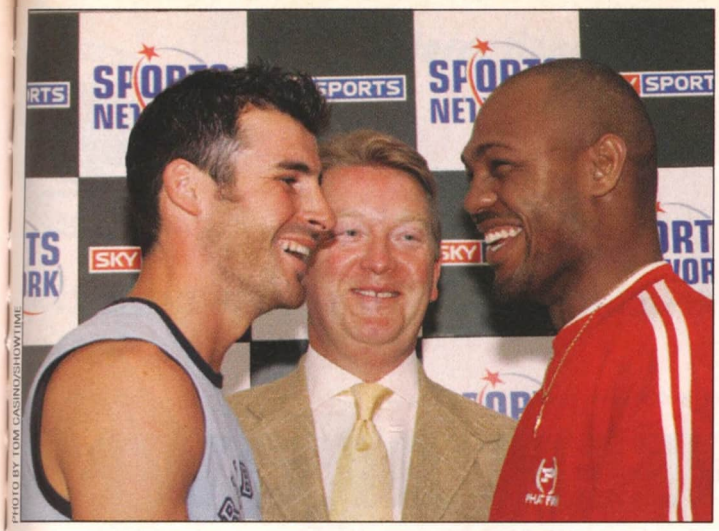


PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

*"Wouldn't it be funny if we both knock each other down and put on a sensational fight and then some overanxious ref ruins it by jumping in too early?" Joe Calzaghe, Byron Mitchell, and promoter Frank Warren all enjoyed a hearty laugh prior to the June super middleweight showdown in Wales, but not everybody was laughing after the fight came to its unsatisfying end.*

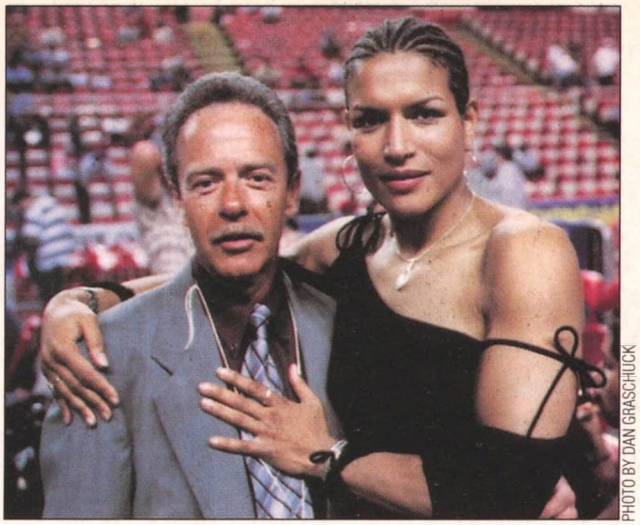

PHOTO BY DAN GRASCHUCK

*Being Michigan's boxing commissioner has its benefits: Brad Wright, the new chairman of the Michigan Athletic Board of Control, got to enjoy some close, personal contact from female fighter Lucia Rijker at a card in Detroit in late-June. Of course, not all contact from Rijker is enjoyable; just ask Jane Couch, who got pounded by "The Dutch Destroyer" for eight rounds just a week earlier.*

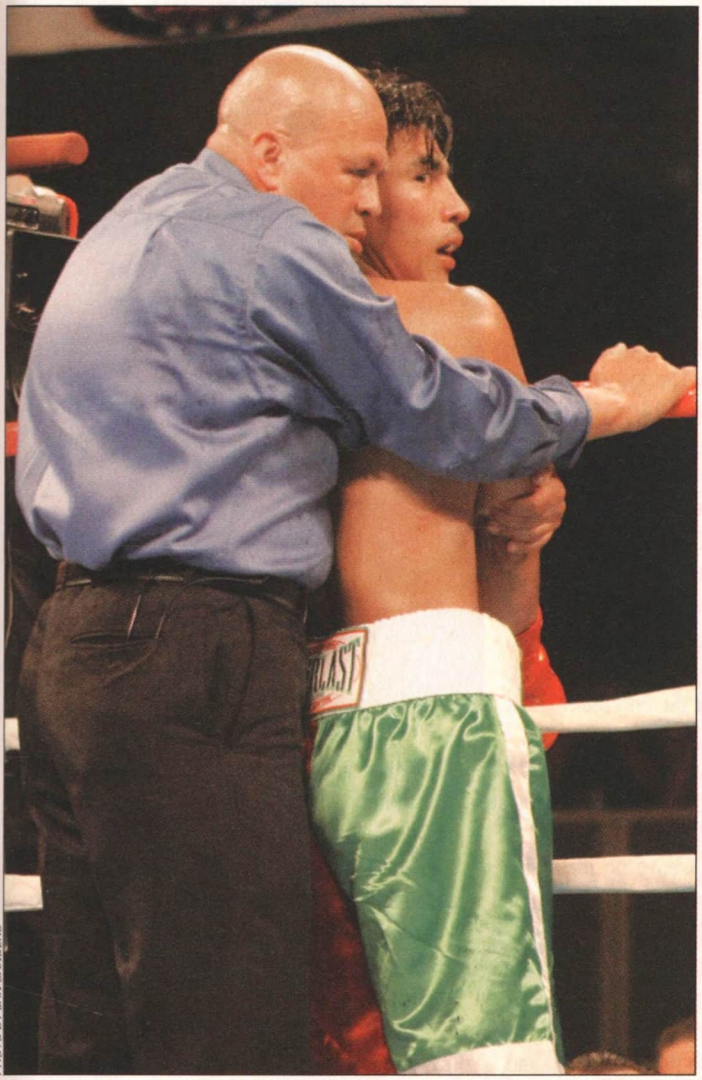

PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

*Emmanuel Lucero sure did find himself in an uncomfortable position when referee Jose Cobian stepped in to stop Lucero's fight with Manny Pacquiao in July. We understand Lucero took a very cold shower immediately following the fight.*

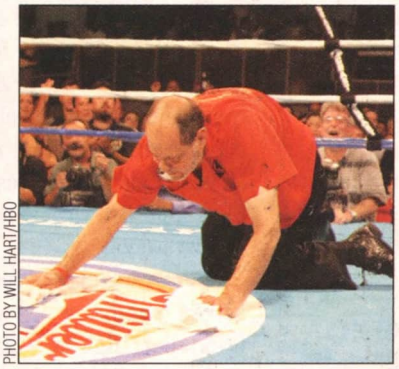

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

*The beer logo on the canvas at the Grand Olympic Auditorium really put the "pool" in "Vanderpool," and the duty fell upon Fitz Vanderpool's trainer, Jimmy Montoya, to act as the pool man. Too bad photographer Will Hart's camera didn't click a moment earlier, when Montoya hilariously tripped over the rope climbing into the ring to clean up the mess.*

## NOSTALGIA CORNER

*Bob Hope, who passed away in July at age 100, was a boxer long before he became a world-famous entertainer, fighting under the name Packy East until, he quipped, he "was not only being carried out of the ring, but into the ring." He made a comeback in his late-60s to fight the legendary Sugar Ray Robinson, and learned that, yes, Sugar Ray would indeed hit a man with glasses.*

# NEW FACES

# RASHEEM BROWN

## *Junior Middleweight*

**By Joe Santoliquito**

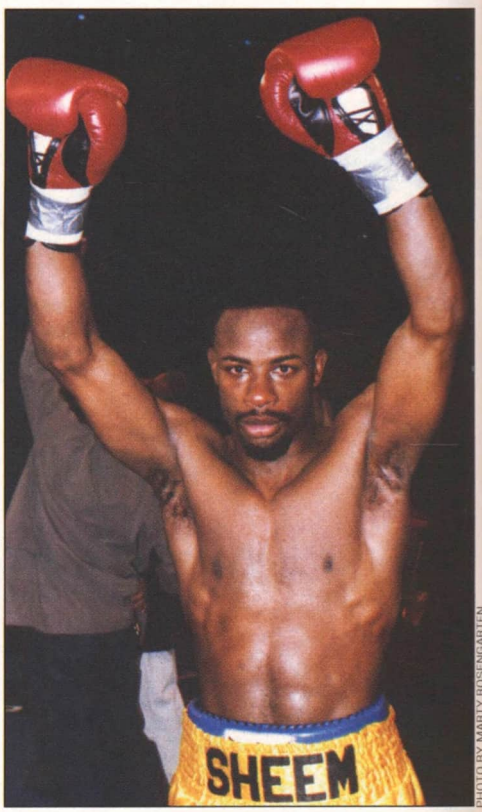


PHOTO BY MARTY ROSENGARTEN

Rasheem Brown was always the smallest one in his class. He was too small to play high school football or basketball. Things were so bad for Brown that one time coming home from school his sophomore year, two 11-year-old girls approached him, thinking he wasn't much older than them, and said they liked him. Brown just nodded his head and walked away.

Now, when the 27-year-old Brown comes across people with whom he went to Overbrook High in West Philadelphia, they don't even recognize him. The kid who was a frail 83 pounds when he was 14 years old has grown into a 5'10", 154-pound fighter. But there remains one physical attribute from his small days—the one that always set Brown apart—that hasn't changed: the punch.

Brown had it growing up boxing his friends on the mean, trash-strewn streets of West Philly, when one good shot meant the end to their street brawls. Landing that right hand on someone's chin still meant the end then—as it does now.

"The Untouchable" has used his power to forge a 10-0 (9) mark as a pro, averaging just two rounds per fight so far.

"To tell you the truth, I have no idea where the power comes from," said Brown, a surgical technician at the Presbyterian Medical Center in Philadelphia when he's not fighting for money. "I used to go to karate school when I was a kid, and we were told not to practice our punches that hard, so I wouldn't even be punching hard and I still moved the kid I was hitting. I was just heavy-handed like that. Even boxing on the streets as a young kid, one of my buddies used to say, 'One good shot and it would be over.' I don't know where the power comes from. All I can say is that God gave me the power."

Aaron Ford Sr., Brown's trainer (along with assistant trainer Derek Ennis), says that Brown is a naturally strong athlete who has yet to reach his peak as a puncher—a frightening thought for any of Brown's future foes.

"Once Rasheem starts turning his hips with his shots, he's going to turn into a more devastating puncher, and that's something he's just starting to work on now," said Ford, who been train-

*(Continued on page 63)*

## PRO RECORD

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| **2001** | | |
| Oct. 5 | Darius Hunter, Philadelphia | KO 1 |
| **2002** | | |
| Feb. 20 | Gabe Solano, Essington, PA | KO 1 |
| April 24 | Dorian Beaupierre, Essington | KO 1 |
| May 10 | Juan Rodriguez, Dover, DE | KO 2 |
| June 21 | Peter Kaljenvic, Philadelphia | KO 1 |
| Aug. 24 | Joe Christie, Atlantic City | KO 3 |
| Nov. 15 | Gary Grant, Philadelphia | KO 2 |
| **2003** | | |
| Feb. 14 | Jose Aponte, Reading, PA | W 6 |
| April 17 | Mack Willis, Philadelphia | KO 3 |
| June 7 | Joshua Onyango, Atlantic City | KO 1 |

| FIGHTS | WON | LOST | DRAW | KOs |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 9 |

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★ Virgil Hill
★ Kid Gavilan
★ Ken Buchanan
★ Danny "Little Red" Lopez
★ Angel Manfredy
★ Terry Norris
★ Jeff Fenech
★ Pipino Cuevas
★ Nino Benvenuti
★ "Irish" Micky Ward
★ Paulie Ayala
★ Ricardo "Finito" Lopez
★ Sir Henry Cooper
★ Livingstone Bramble
★ Donald Curry
★ Tommy Morrison
★ Angelo Dundee

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★ Benvenuti - Griffith

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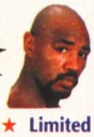

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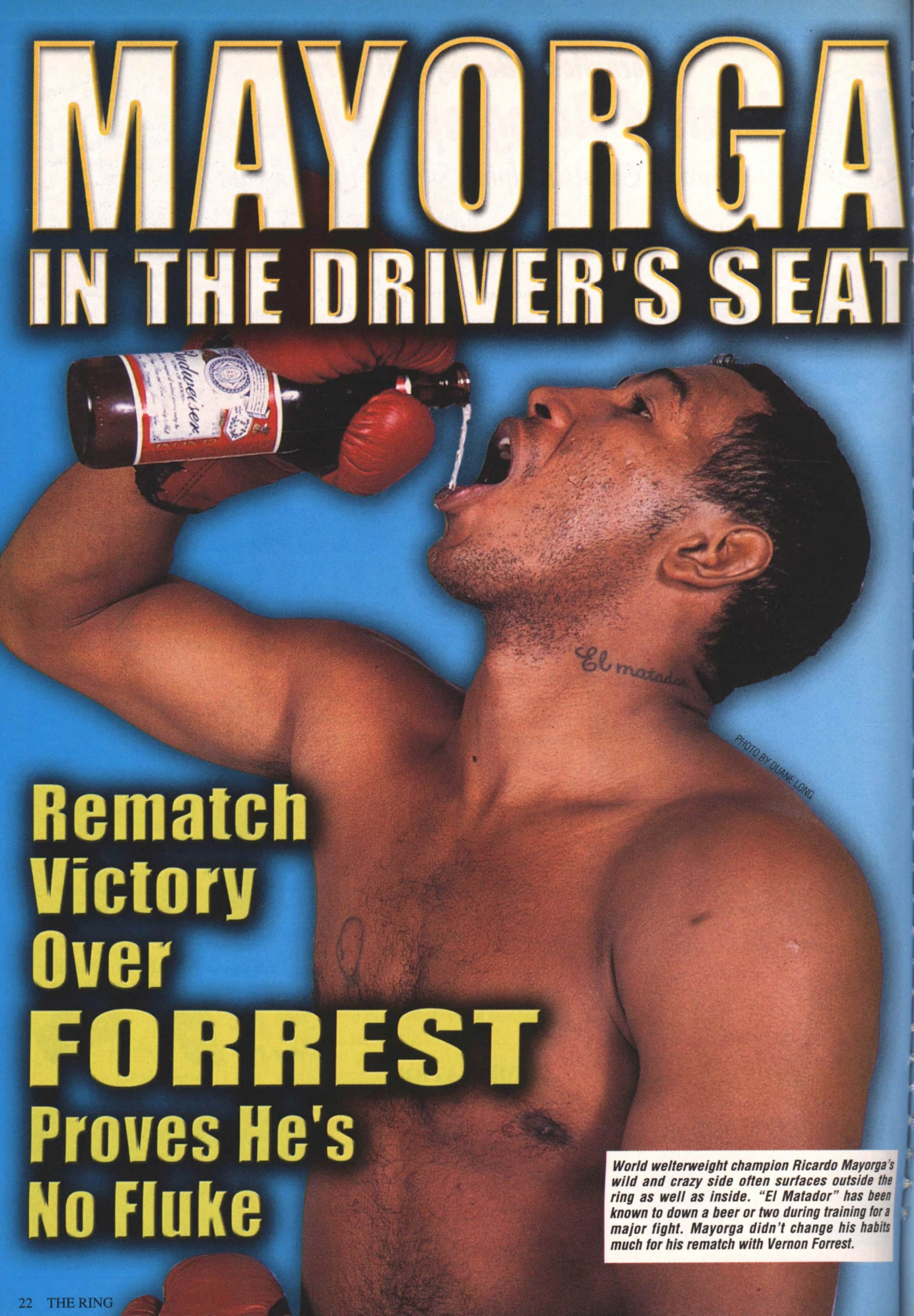


PHOTO BY DUANE LONG

## Rematch Victory Over FORREST Proves He's No Fluke

*World welterweight champion Ricardo Mayorga's wild and crazy side often surfaces outside the ring as well as inside. "El Matador" has been known to down a beer or two during training for a major fight. Mayorga didn't change his habits much for his rematch with Vernon Forrest.*

**By Joe Santoliquito**

Carl King will know better next time, if there is a next time. The fight manager stepped into the small, revved-up sports car with some trepidation, considering what he had heard about the driving habits of the man behind the wheel, welterweight champion Ricardo Mayorga. What King thought was going to be a brief drive through some of the winding hillside roads of Managua, Nicaragua, instead turned into a scene from the movie *The Fast And The Furious*.

The jolt that Mayorga put into the ride, however, made King's journey with "El Matador" feel more like *The Wacky And The Dangerous*. Easily exceeding 90 miles-per-hour, Mayorga curled his way down hairpin turns, while King held on for dear life as if gripping the edge of a cliff by his fingertips.

Then came the ultimate move. Mayorga positioned his car next to an 18-wheeler, and with a quick yank of the steering wheel, maneuvered his vehicle under the moving truck and came out on the other side. It's a stunt any daredevil would be proud of. But King could only manage to squeeze out a faint smile, as he turned to Mayorga, who was laughing and slapping the steering wheel.

"You should have seen his face. Carl turned white and his hair stood up like his dad's," Mayorga recalled with a sly grin, speaking through interpreter Tony Gonzalez, his attorney. "I just wanted to scare him, but I don't think Carl will drive with me again."

Nor will many want to venture into the ring with Mayorga, after El Matador put on another display of manic mayhem in his rematch with Vernon Forrest on July 12. Mayorga dispelled critics who called his third-round knockout of Forrest back on January 25 a fluke, defending the world welterweight title with an arduous 12-round majority decision over Forrest before 6,272 excited fans at the new Orleans Arena in Las Vegas.

Many of Mayorga's now renowned training habits were also on parade throughout the July 12 weekend. The night before the fight, Mayorga freely mingled with the patrons at a bar at the Orleans, listening to a rhythm-and-blues band, puffing away on cigarettes, with a curvy young lady and family members by his side until midnight. It's not the way most fighters prepare for the biggest bout of their lives.

Understanding Mayorga's ways is nearly impossible until you understand the impoverished background in Managua that forged the man.

Mayorga is calculating, much more intelligent than people give him credit for. His harsh prefight remarks toward his opponent usually come with a twinkle in his eye, not meant to be malicious at all. His physical strength comes from his father, Eddy, a baker who Mayorga says couldn't afford a jack to change a flat tire, so he once picked up the car with his bare hands to do the job. Ricardo's strong will comes from his mother, Mirian, who, according to her son, once stayed awake

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

***Mayorga faced so many trials in his youth that taking on Forrest in the ring was "like a walk around the park compared to what I went through," Mayorga said. The champ slammed a number of rights into Forrest's head over the first five rounds.***

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

***Mayorga kept charging at Forrest throughout their rematch. But Forrest felt he was elusive enough to avoid most of Mayorga's onslaught and believed he deserved the decision.***

for six straight days, running from one job to another to help the family cope with their financial hardships.

"Life in Managua was very difficult, very hard, just like for every other poor child," Mayorga said. "My house was basically made up of cinder blocks with wood and dirt floors. We had no electricity, and I had to suck up the hunger. I was 12 years old and I didn't even have a bike, but there was never a time when I was scared of the streets, because I was used to fighting. There were some times I even fought for my life, when I was a hoodlum running the streets. That's why I don't respect anyone in the ring, because compared to what I went through, boxing for me is like a walk around the park."

One of the few times Mayorga was afraid, however, came in his late-teens. As a result of streetfighting, he was arrested and put in jail for four days.

"That was the only time that I got a little nervous," Mayorga admitted. "I was in jail about 11 times, but only the first time made me nervous. After that, it was normal. Every time I was put in jail, I'd always say, 'Tomorrow, I'll be out.' I'd like to thank God, because basically, He had me go through the college of the streets, where I learned a good deal.

"I consider myself very lucky because, in reality, people tried to shoot me a couple of times at close range, and both times, the gun got stuck or jammed. Both times I realized that God loves me a lot. When I got out of the streets, I wasn't going to wait to see if the third time was a charm."

The first time Mayorga had a gun pulled on him was at age 21, when he was riding a bike and accidentally crashed into another cyclist.

"When he fell, he tried to shoot at me," Mayorga said, wiping his brow as he recalled the close call. "I don't know whether or not he was pissed off or pointed the gun at me out of nerves, but he wanted to shoot me. I took the gun away from him, and kicked the s___ out of him."

Mayorga also managed to steer clear of drug use, which is rampant in Nicaragua. He said that most of his gang friends had smoked pot or used other drugs, but he was never pressured to go that route.

Mayorga, 25-3-1 (22) with 1 no-contest, stresses that that's the difference between himself and Nicaraguan legend Alexis Arguello, who has publicly disclosed his past drug problems. El Matador is not hesitant to express his disappointment with Hall of Famer Arguello.

"I want people to know that I am different from Alexis Arguello," Mayorga said, as agitation briefly crossed his face. "I wouldn't go out of my way to help him. I wouldn't, because he hasn't spoken highly

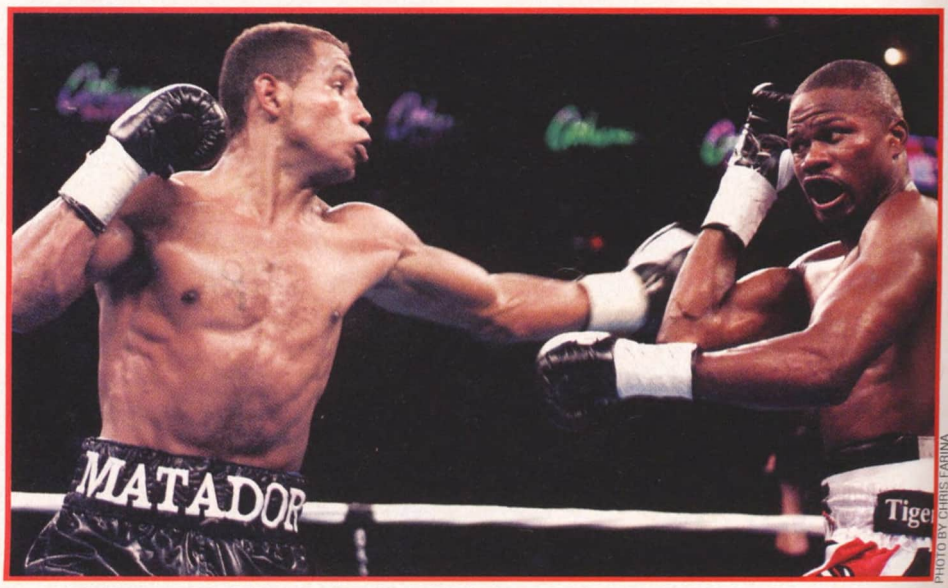


PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

***Forrest was so defensive-minded the first half of the fight he made Mayorga look good in comparison, even when the defending champion wasn't connecting. In a way, it was Mayorga's sheer determination, as much as anything else, that carried him to victory.***

of me or shown me any respect. He's said that I'm a mediocre boxer, and from that point on, he's disrespected me. He's come out and said that I wouldn't have even been a sparring partner back in his day."

Disparaging comments like that continue to rouse Mayorga's intrinsic fury. It's a reason why he looks so disdainfully at his opponents before a fight. It's a reason why he carries himself so fearlessly in the ring. El Matador never had a speck of doubt about the Forrest rematch, while many experts thought that Forrest, 35-2 (26) with 1 no-contest, would outbox Mayorga this time.

"Yes, it was frustrating not being able to get any respect from the American media after the first time I knocked Forrest out," said Mayorga, who was the underdog in each of his last three fights, against Andrew "Six Heads" Lewis to win the WBA welterweight belt, and in his two world title fights against Forrest. "I'm happy I proved a lot of the doubters wrong. I don't hold anything against them. If anything, I hold their confidence now. I was mad at myself when I didn't knock Forrest out the second fight, but I also blinded myself with rage and tried to knock him out. I had to relax and score

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

*THE RING already recognizes Mayorga as the world welterweight champion, but the fiery Nicaraguan slugger may look to collect another title belt or two by the end of the year. IBF welterweight titlist Cory Spinks and WBO beltholder Antonio Margarito are high on Mayorga's hit list, as is junior middleweight world champion Oscar De La Hoya.*

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PHOTO BY HOLLY STEIN/HBO

***Based on El Matador's third-round knockout of Forrest in the first fight (pictured), Mayorga thought he would be the favorite among the American media, but he wasn't. Mayorga feels now he holds the confidence of the boxing media after beating Forrest again.***

with more punches. I'm crazy, but I'm smart. That's how I control myself."

Going into the fight, Forrest vowed that he wouldn't get into a brawl with Mayorga, like the one that led to Forrest's demise the first time. "The Viper," however, was forced to break that vow in the opening minutes, as the 29-year-old Mayorga tore after him again. El Matador made Forrest fight on his terms through the first five rounds, even arguably winning a round in which he allowed Forrest several free shots at him.

That was the fourth, a round that began with Mayorga attacking Forrest with his bully tactics, wading in and throwing wild rights at the challenger's head, sometimes hitting the mark, sometimes catching nothing but air. As the round wound down, Forrest began establishing a rhythm, connecting with his jab. Then, in the final 30 seconds, El Matador deliberately dropped his hands, as if to say, "You can't hurt me." Forrest replied by nailing Mayorga in the face with a quick combination. Then another. The punches had no effect, bouncing off Mayorga's head like rain drops off a metal roof. Mayorga responded by punching himself in the chin and asking for more. As the bell sounded to end the round, fans stood and cheered Mayorga's audacity.

"I'm aware I gave away a few rounds because I let Forrest hit me, but I'm aware that I won 10 rounds," Mayorga said smugly. "In the fourth round, when I let Forrest hit me, and I hit myself, I thought I won that round. Actually, I think I hit myself harder than Forrest hit me.

"I wasn't frustrated by the way the fight went. In the seventh and eighth rounds, Forrest was running away from me, and it was very difficult to punch as hard as I wanted, where you have to run after someone to hit him. With his future in his hands, sometimes Forrest decided to fight. But he still needed a little more courage to beat me."

Forrest's considerable boxing skills, mixed with a good degree of courage, made the second half of the bout interesting. After braving Mayorga's assault the opening five rounds, Forrest proceeded to win three of the next four rounds on the judges' scorecards. Mayorga had gotten away from the fight plan trainer Hector Perez originally laid out for him, but he came back to win the 10th and 11th rounds on two of the judges' scorecards, and that proved the difference.

Judges Larry O'Connell (England) and Ove Oveson (Denmark) ruled for Mayorga, 115-114 and 116-112, respectively, while Jerry Roth (USA) had it 114-114. THE RING scored 115-113 for Mayorga.

"Mayorga maximized his ability," Forrest said. "The first few rounds, I don't think I was necessarily fighting his fight. You have a guy coming at you whaling

away; you have to fight him off. My strategy was to fight him the first three rounds, and then take him into the deep waters and see what he had left. I was definitely surprised he had a lot left in the end, and that's why I made the comment he must be on something.

"After the second fight, the loss was a lot harder to swallow than the first, because I did everything I had to to win the fight. Why should I give him any credit? I still think I'm the better fighter. I wanted to get him out of his game plan, which is exactly what happened. He did exactly what I wanted him to do."

Except lose.

Mayorga's stature in the United States should definitely rise on the heels of his first defense. The Mayorga-Forrest rematch was watched in 2.7 million households and drew an 8.1 rating, making it the third-highest rated HBO fight in 2003, behind Lennox Lewis-Vitali Klitschko (13.4) and the third fight in the Arturo Gatti-Micky Ward series (8.8).

"Mayorga is the kind of fighter that even if he loses, you want to see him again," HBO ringside analyst Larry Merchant said. "This is a guy who gets your blood going, and keeps you at the edge of your seat. There are people who openly root against him, but you have to take a stand when it comes to Mayorga. After he beat Forrest again, he's now become one of those rare must-see champions, and there aren't a whole lot of those guys out there."

Not surprisingly, Kery Davis, HBO Sports' vice president of programming, wants Mayorga back on the air.

"The Forrest-Mayorga fight did extremely well for us," Davis said, "and Mayorga may be the most outrageous, exciting fighter to come along since Naseem Hamed. Mayorga knocks people out and he has an all-action style. What's more, Mayorga is willing to take on anyone."

What's next for the world welterweight champ (and WBA/WBC titleholder) could be a defense against southpaw IBF titlist Cory Spinks, or a bout with WBO beltholder Antonio Margarito, which promises to be a more exciting fight. Then there's the possible move up to 154, where big-money fights await against Oscar De La Hoya, Shane Mosley, or Fernando Vargas. It's no shocker which of these fighters is Mayorga's first choice.

"I want to fight Oscar De La Hoya," Mayorga said. "That's what I would like next. If Oscar De La Hoya gives me his word as a man, I would speak with Don King to make the fight happen. If Oscar De La Hoya doesn't accept my challenge to fight me, I'd like HBO to give me his home address, so I can Fed-Ex him a pair of balls."

After the Forrest victory, Mayorga returned home to serve as the Grand Marshal of parades throughout Nicaragua, drag race his cars in Managua, buy his parents a new home—with electricity—and hand out money to whomever truly needed it.

"I consider myself a star in boxing right now," said Mayorga, with a whimsical look in his eyes. "I think I have an obligation to my people in Nicaragua. I think that I'm a very blessed person. I thank God for that. I became a world champion not because I'm very good, but because God decided it that way for me. Because I come from a world that's very poor, all this success can influence you, but it's not enough to let my head swell. I'm very humble, and all of my friends are poor and humble like I am.

"My friends say, 'Hey, champ,' but I don't like that. I like to be called 'Ricky' by my friends. My life has changed a lot in a sense of economics, but my heart and my mind will always remind me to keep my feet on the ground, and my head will never swell, because poverty will always run through me." ■

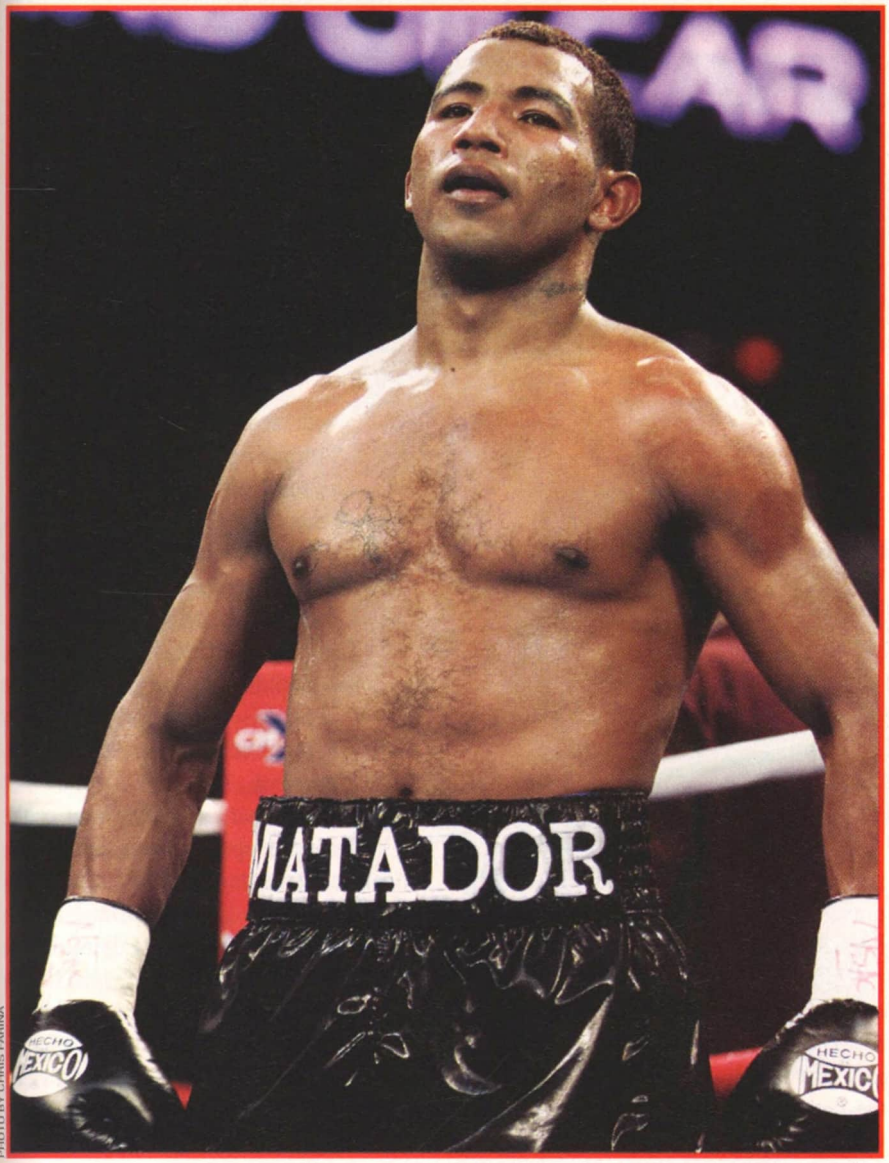


PHOTO BY CHRIS LARINA

*The self-proclaimed "humble" champ says that his life has not changed much since becoming welterweight king. In Mayorga's mind, his impoverished youth will always keep him grounded.*

# DE LA HOYA TAKES ON THE HEAVYWEIGHTS

## Will OSCAR Have The Golden Touch As A Promoter?

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

*De La Hoya flashed his famous smile for the media during a press conference announcing his promotional company's series of fights cards on HBO Latino's* Boxeo De Oro. *Is it possible that De La Hoya could be just as successful as a promoter as he has been as a fighter?*

**By David Mayo**

It isn't as if Oscar De La Hoya and Bob Arum haven't disagreed before, because their brief split when De La Hoya decided to leave Top Rank in favor of Jerry Perenchio cost De La Hoya a lot of money, and caused Arum a lot of heartache. Arum had referred to De La Hoya as a virtual son, and the fighter had given his 1992 Olympic gold medal to the promoter. Hundreds of millions of dollars later, they landed in court.

Even their reconciliation can never completely remove the wedge driven between them by De La Hoya's legal victory to void his contract with Arum, and the verbal volleys thereafter, at least one with memorably racial overtones, when De La Hoya boasted he had defeated "the biggest Jew ever to come out of Harvard."

But on the fiscal side, with promoter and fighter back together, doing huge pay-per-view bonanzas twice annually, it might seem they at least share the same boxing business perspective again.

Not entirely.

De La Hoya refers to Top Rank as "my competitor," while Arum calls De La Hoya "my so-called competitor." In either case, their competition, so-called or otherwise, certainly is friendlier than their once-cavernous divide.

The competition took shape with the formation of Golden Boy Promotions, L.L.C., the hottest promotional company created recently, and not coincidentally drawing upon Arum's Top Rank for part of its business template.

In fact, when De La Hoya decided within this decade to become a boxing promoter, he sent his business manager, Richard Schaefer, to Arum with a proposal.

"Richard asked if Oscar could have an option to purchase, after I retired, a percentage of the company," Arum, 71, recalled. "I told him I didn't think that was feasible, that I didn't know what the future would hold, and that I already have [Executive Vice President] Todd [duBoef] in place. There are a lot of things I used to be involved in with the company that I'm not anymore, but we have young guys working here, and I think they're well-equipped to continue to run the company in future years."

Arum declined, but said he knew, at that moment, that De La Hoya would become a serious player in boxing promotion, even before the fighter's career ended.

Arum, however, had to balance his desire not to sell off a piece of Top Rank against the reality that the biggest chunk of his company's business centers on De La Hoya. Arum's publicist, Lee Samuels, said Top Rank employees have "standing orders" to cooperate with De La Hoya's promotional requests whenever possible. And Arum said De La Hoya's evolution could only help the promoting business, which faces an uncertain future as both Arum and Don King near the end of their careers.

"I think it's great for the future of boxing that guys like Sugar Ray Leonard and Oscar—my so-called competitors—are getting involved," Arum said. "I helped Richard in the beginning. I told him where to spend, where not to spend. And I tried to help Ray out, too. I think it's great to have people like that involved. I even told Todd it's going to help his business after I retire. Promoters have a very bad image … But to have fresh, identifiable faces involved in promoting, people who were heroes as fighters, can only help all promoters."

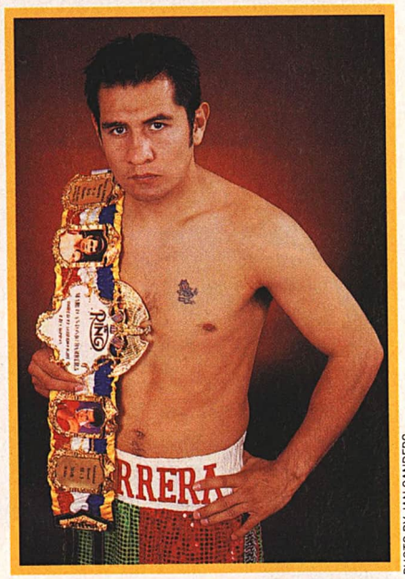

PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

*Signing world featherweight champion Marco Antonio Barrera was a huge coup for Golden Boy Promotions, giving the company instant credibility as a major player and a superstar who can headline pay-per-view cards.*

De La Hoya's speedy evolution from fighter to punching promoter has arrived with nearly the same swiftness as his left hook.

When Marco Antonio Barrera left Forum Boxing to sign with De La Hoya this year, the featherweight champion gave Golden Boy Promotions its first major attraction (though Forum Boxing plans to fight Barrera's departure in court.) Barrera's signing also provided something more: With Arum and King both septuagenarians, the future of boxing promotion has followed increasingly confusing and divergent paths in recent years, and De La Hoya seems as close as anyone to sharpening that focus.

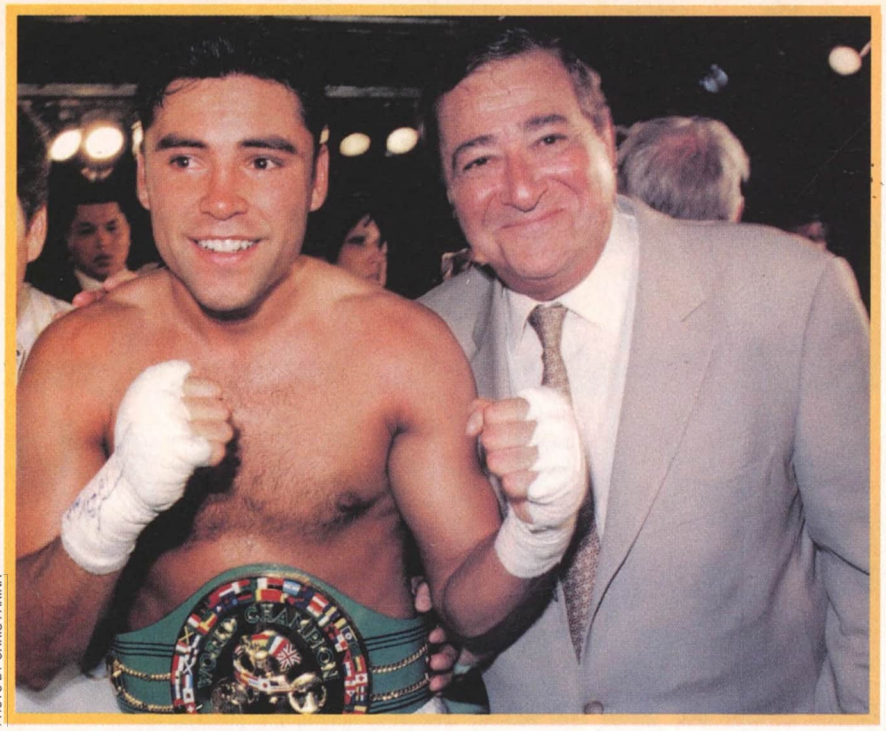

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

***Even though they are working together again following a split, lawsuit, and reconciliation, De La Hoya and his longtime promoter, Bob Arum, are now rivals in the promotional business.***

Cedric Kushner, knocked out in frequent legal battles, and carrying a low eight-figure debt load according to documents detailing the financial health of his publicly traded company, has lost virtually any claim to heir-apparent status.

Main Events' horrible family feuds make the Floyd Mayweathers look like Ward and Beaver Cleaver, and while the restructured company recently carved a unique niche with an NBC-televised series that gave hope to future network endeavors, Main Events' most recent reincarnation resulted in Gary Shaw's breakaway to create yet another promotional faction.

Lou DiBella seems as stable as any of the new-deal promoters, though when a real opportunity at major promotional stardom presented itself in the form of Bernard Hopkins, the parties ended up in court, mutually victimized by Hopkins' acerbic tongue and questionable business acumen. DiBella won the libel suit, but lost the middleweight champion.

America Presents seemed to be going the right way until Dan Goossen's largesse and Bill Daniels' death sank the company, and while Goossen has re-created himself with Fox Sports-televised shows, he has never firmly established himself as the Arum/King heir.

Leonard benefited from abundant ESPN dates in what some viewed as promotionally monopolistic, but while profitable, even an ESPN monopoly doesn't qualify a promoter as the next superstar, and Leonard never properly leveraged that advantage to build fighters into bigger attractions.

De La Hoya could prove a different story. He has a powerhouse team working with him, already is promoting more than one-fourth of the cards in boxing-rich California, has a monthly standing date on HBO Latino in addition to regular dates on both ESPN and Telefutura, has father Joel as built-in manager of two of his six unbeaten fighters, has a sponsorship deal in place with Mandalay Bay even for fights outside Las Vegas, and as one of the most recognizable active fighters in the sport, enjoys a status no major promoter ever has.

De La Hoya's first move, announced at the same time as his December 2001 revelation that he planned to enter the promoting business, was to buy out Roy Englebrecht's promotional company. Englebrecht, who was promoting one out of every five cards in California at the time, was retained as chief operations officer, with Schaefer as chief executive officer. California boxing fixture Don Chargin joined on as matchmaker last year.

Less than two years into its existence, Golden Boy Promotions is on pace to produce nearly 50 shows annually.

"The important thing to me was to surround myself with people who could make the business go," De La Hoya said. "We wanted it to be a quick process. Any business has to be built, but the people involved in this company had the knowledge to do it immediately. You can't have

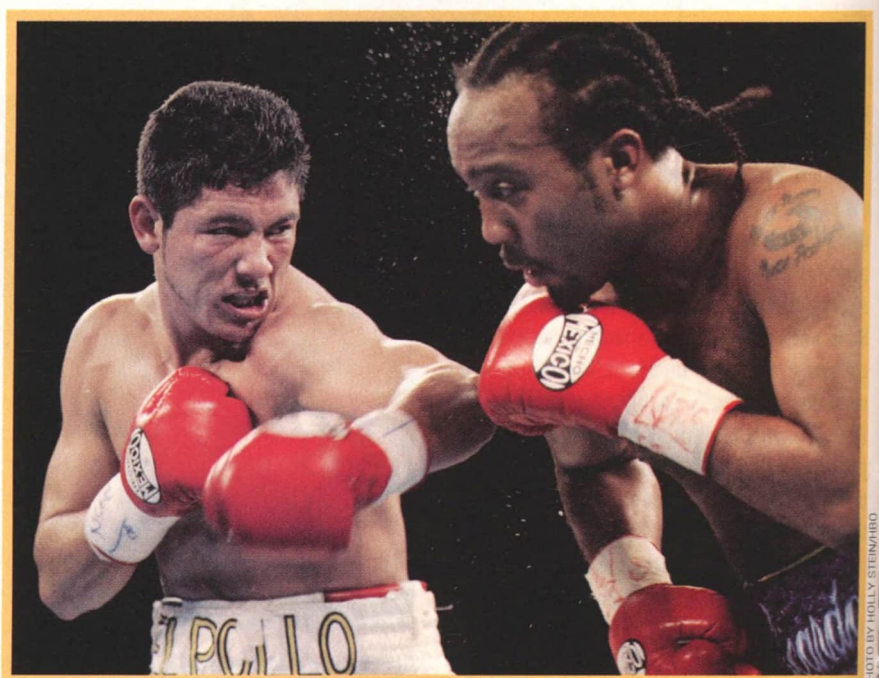

PHOTO BY HOLLY STEIN/HBO

***Golden Boy Promotions doesn't have just big stars and unbeaten prospects under contract. De La Hoya's company recently signed journeyman Juan "Pollo" Valenzuela, who upset U.S. Olympian Ricardo Williams (pictured) and might become the first Golden Boy fighter to challenge for a title.***

PHOTO BY CHRIS LAUNA

*One of the first fighters Golden Boy Promotions signed was 22-year-old junior bantam Jose Navarro, a talented boxer who has already racked up 17 straight wins as a pro. De La Hoya is also Navarro's manager.*

a better team. To have a businessman like Richard Schaefer, an established promoter like Roy Englebrecht, and a true legend like Don Chargin, is something a promoter can work a lifetime and never assemble. Their expertise, their business acumen, their ethics, are unquestioned."

But the front man's popularity is what established Golden Boy Promotions as immediately viable. Take, for instance, a June show in Fort Worth, Texas, with junior welterweights Juan "Pollo" Valenzuela and Kelson Pinto in the main event and the semifinal, respectively.

"On the week of the show," Arum recalled, "they had 12 tickets sold. It wasn't doing any business at all. Then, Oscar showed up, and they ended up selling about 3,000 tickets. That's the popularity Oscar has. The show succeeded just because he showed up."

Pinto, who lost to eventual gold medalist Muhammad Abdullaev in the 2000 Olympics while representing Brazil, is one of two Olympians signed by Golden Boy Promotions, and De La Hoya said he plans to scout the 2004 Olympics for future talent. But Valenzuela, despite his six losses, might be the first De La Hoya-promoted fighter to challenge for a title under Golden Boy's direction, because of major upset victories over Julio Diaz and Ricardo Williams.

Williams' loss to Valenzuela prompted a highly publicized split with his promoter, DiBella, after Williams refused to take a pay cut following the upset loss. DiBella formed DiBella Entertainment after a dozen years directing HBO boxing. He thinks if he is able to outlast Arum and King, he's "probably in as good a shape" as any of their potential heirs, and suggests Top Rank is in better position for long-term survival than Don King Productions, simply because the enormity of King's personality dominates the latter.

DiBella said the trick to promoting is in creating value and knowing when to strike with a fighter, and uses his own company's artful maneuvering of Micky Ward and Leonard Dorin as prime examples.

"You can have the same fighter in the hands of three different promotional companies and have three different results," he said. DiBella said that De La Hoya's group appears the strongest of the promotional start-ups because of its solid strategic foundation.

"It didn't shock me when Oscar decided to get into promotions, because Oscar was always interested in boxing, and always had points of view about things he did and didn't like about boxing," DiBella said. "What Oscar is doing right is that he started getting his feet wet with small local shows, off television, associated himself with good people, and then used his popularity to get a series on HBO. I think Oscar's company will continue to be around, because it was very intelligent of him to start at the grass-roots level."

De La Hoya had 13 fighters under contract at press time, including six unbeaten prospects—Pinto, super middleweights Librado Andrade and Enrique Ornelas, welterweight Guillermo Saputo, junior welterweight Mike Anchondo (Saputo and Anchondo are both managed by Joel De La Hoya), and junior bantam Jose Navarro, Golden Boy's other Olympian, and perhaps the most advanced of the up-and-comers in the stable. There is also a growing core of respected veterans, including


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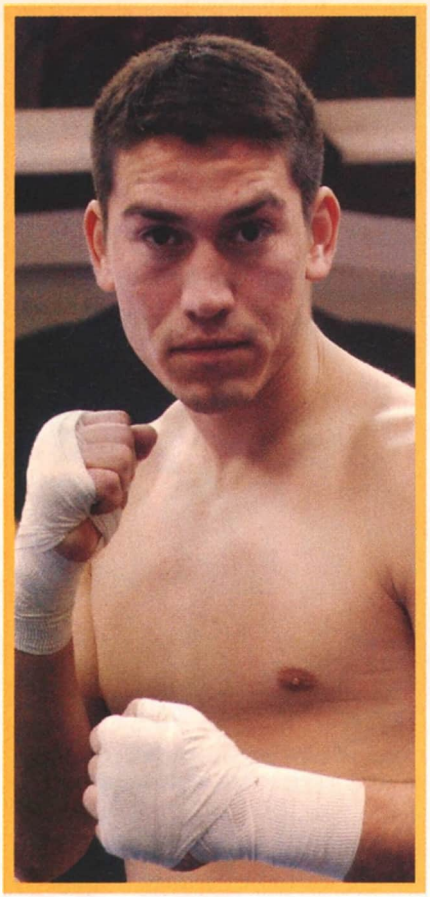
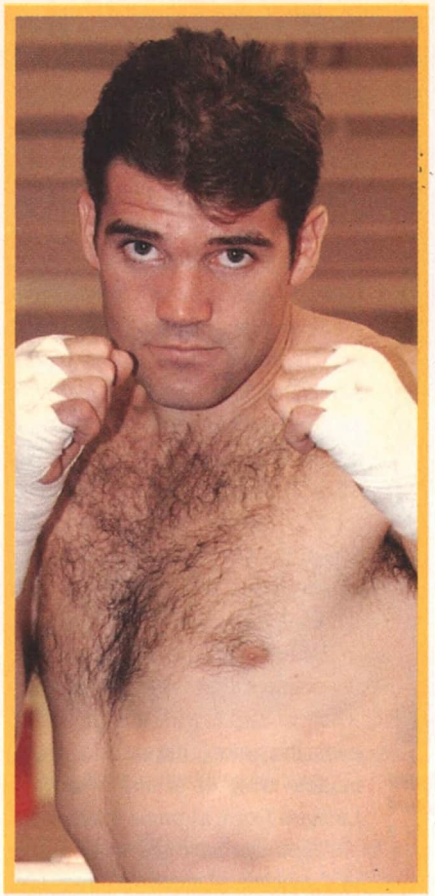
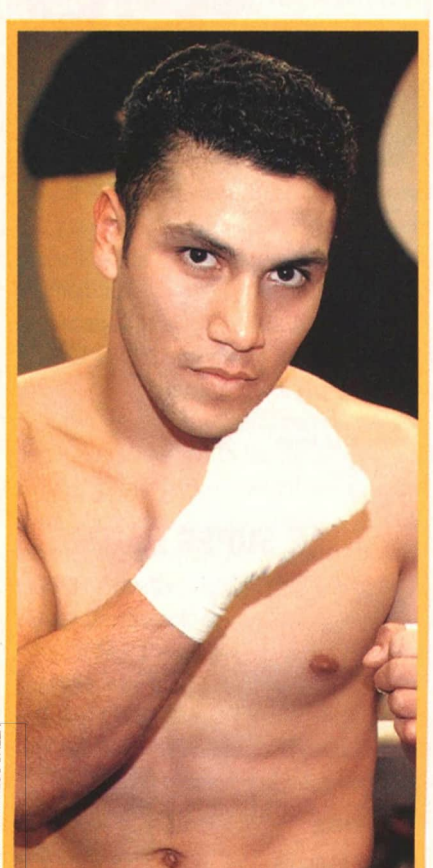
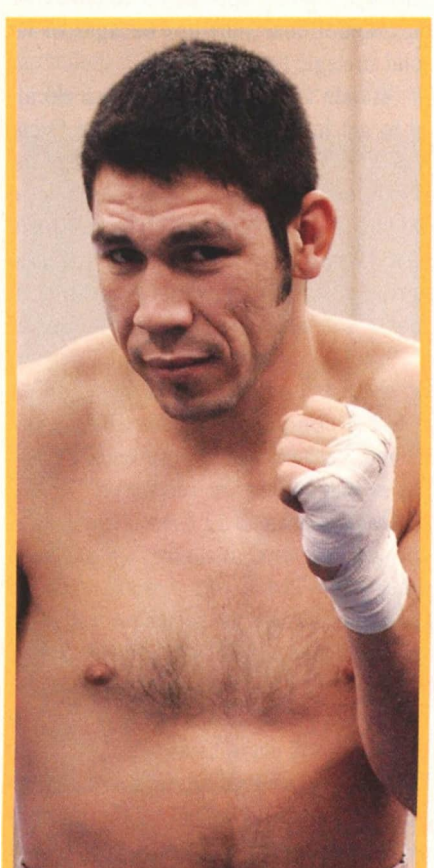




***Four for the future: Golden Boy has a number of prospects under contract, including (clockwise from top left) super middleweight Enrique Ornelas, welterweight Guillermo Saputo, super middle Librado Andrade, and junior welter Mike Anchondo.***





PHOTOS BY CARLOS BAEZA

junior featherweight beltholder Oscar Larios, lightweight contender Juan Lazcano, and the latest acquisition, popular ex-titlist Jesse James Leija.

Every fighter under contract to Golden Boy Promotions is Hispanic, a business advantage De La Hoya enjoys both through personal heritage, and the professional practice he learned from Arum. He acknowledges that he wanted to become the first major Hispanic promotional presence in boxing, but also insists he will not focus strictly on Hispanic athletes.

"It's not just a company for Hispanic fighters, and it's not just a company for major television events," he said. "Boxing is mainly a grass-roots sport, and a well-rounded promotional company will promote many more shows on that level than on the HBO or pay-per-view level. And we're willing to look at any fighter who is talented, willing to work hard, and has the desire. Those are the qualities I've taken pride in, as far as my own career, and those are the qualities we'll look for when we sign fighters for Golden Boy Promotions. There are talented fighters out there. They just need exposure and opportunity."

De La Hoya's brief foray into music, for which he was nominated for a Latin Grammy, apparently is over.

"I'll leave the music to my wife (pop star Millie Corretjer)," he said. "She's the musical genius in the family. The music thing is over for me."

But even with his boxing career on the wane as he enters the final few fights of his career—beginning with his highly anticipated September 13 rematch against Shane Mosley—De La Hoya's staying power in the sport could be just beginning.

"I'm going to miss boxing when it's over for me," he said. "One of the biggest misconceptions people have about me is that I don't love boxing. Sure, I had a couple years when I was tired of the sport, but I'm rejuvenated now. I've always loved boxing, and boxing has always been at the center of my life. And my promotional company will always keep me involved in boxing. I'll say right now, in the next two or three years we'll be the leading boxing promotional company in the nation. We are the future of boxing." ■

***David Mayo covers boxing for the Grand Rapids (Michigan) Press and is a regular contributor to this magazine.***

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**Sept. 1990: Marvin Hagler—Can He Resist The Irresistible Temptation?** Plus: Thomas Hearns, Sanchez-Saddler, Paul Banke, puncher vs. chin, Beau Jack, Robinson-LaMotta (color).

**Nov. 1990: Tyson vs. Foreman. Can Iron Mike Stop The Blast From The Past?** Plus: Bruce Seldon, best chins, Sullivan-Kilrain (color), Azumah Nelson, LaStarza.

**Dec. 1990: Exclusive Annual Report: The State Of The Game.** Plus: Douglas-Holyfield preview, Julio Cesar Chavez, Joe Grim, Whitaker-Nazario, Rosi-Van Horn, Benny Leonard, Douglas-Tyson (color).

**Jan. 1991: Boxing's Baddest Bad Boy: Nigel Benn Plays By His Own Rules.** Plus: Roberto Duran, Kid Akeem, Jose Napoles, Jimmy Carruthers, LaMotta-Zale, Dempsey-Willard (color).

**Feb. 1991: Boxing On TV—Now You'll Pay!** Plus: Ismael Laguna, Tommy Morrison in *Rocky V*, Reggie Tuur, Chiquita Gonzalez, Harold Green, Joe Louis.

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**Aug. 1991: Foreman Gives Holyfield A Fight ... And The World A Thrill (color).** Plus: Making weight, Harry Greb, Kevin Kelley, Louis-Conn I, Simon Brown-Blocker, Chavez-Duplessis, Sugar Ray Robinson.

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**Jan. 1992: The State Of The Game.** Plus: Jerry Quarry, Julio Cesar Chavez, Mysterious Billy Smith, Joey Gamache.

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**July 1992: Does Larry Holmes Deserve A Title Shot?** Plus: Nelson-Fenech II, Tracy Patterson, Kelley-Dorsey, fat fighters, Buchanan-Camacho, Holmes-Ali (color).

**Aug. 1992: Holyfield-Holmes Prefight. Holmes: "I See Me Takin' Holyfield Outta There."** Plus: Iran Barkley, Herbie Hide, George Foreman, Tex Cobb, Carnival of Champions, Harry Greb, Haugen-Mancini, Oscar De La Hoya, Gene Tunney (color).

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***April 2003: Gatti Has His Ducks In A Row: A New Woman And A New Trainer Put The "Art" Back In Arturo.*** *Also: Barrera-Morales, Roy Jones, Phillip Ndou & Silence Mabuza, Laila Ali, Gorilla Jones,*

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# FERNANDO'S STILL FEROCIOUS

## But Can His Fighting Ability Live Up To His Star Power?

**By Ivan Goldman**

PHOTOS BY WILL HART/HBO

Yes, Fernando Vargas was gone a while. But clearly he was not forgotten. Throughout his 10 months out of the ring, fans hungered for his return.

For nine of those months he'd been suspended for steroids discovered in his system after his life-changing 11th-round kayo by arch-enemy Oscar De La Hoya. It's possible Vargas was fed the steroids without his knowledge. But the facts remain: He cheated and lost.

Had his fans melted away after the De La Hoya fight, it would not have been shocking. Celebrity is an intangible quality that hangs from the thinnest of threads. Ask Michael Jackson or Meldrick Taylor.

But when "Ferocious Fernando" took up his career again, the fans snatched up all 6,700 seats in Los Angeles' Grand Olympic Auditorium even though his opponent was the barely known Fitz Vanderpool and they could have stayed home and seen the contest on HBO's *Boxing After Dark*. No one had sold out the historic Olympic in at least two decades.

Vanderpool, who turned out to be game but limited, was still trying to get something done when referee Marty Denkin decided he'd seen enough and stopped it in the sixth round. Vargas' fans were electrified. They whooped and hollered as though he'd just kayoed a world-beater.

It wasn't long ago that "El Feroz" was recognized as one of the finest boxer-punchers in the game. But the jury is still out on whether he can climb back up the mountain. He endured tremendous punishment in his defeats to De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad, who stopped him in the 12th round. Savage beatings like those can be career-enders. So how much does Vargas really have left?

"I don't think we'll have our answer until after January," said Carl Moretti, vice president and matchmaker for Main Events, Vargas' promoter. "I'm not going to make a judgment based on six rounds with Fitz Vanderpool. Even if the fight had gone 10 rounds, we still wouldn't know. But after Fernando fights in October and January, and we have that in perspective, then I think all of us will have the answers, including him."

Main Events planned to put Vargas into another tune-up on October 3 on Telefutura before an HBO fight with tougher competition in January, probably with the durable Javier Castillejo.

After January, Vargas hopes to get a rematch with De La Hoya. If not, there is still plenty of terrific competition out there around Vargas' junior middleweight territory, including Shane Mosley, Vernon Forrest, and Ricardo Mayorga. None of those fighters would be mistaken for the hapless Vanderpool, who was driven from corner to corner, rarely finding much shelter from Vargas' measured attack. Then, just when you thought he was finished, the Canadian born in Trinidad would lash out with his own offensive. Still, CompuBox counted only 44 connects out of Vanderpool's 316 punches, for a dismal success rate of 14 percent.

THE RING learned that while training for Vargas at L.A.'s Hoover Street Gym, Vanderpool was kayoed by sparring partner Oliver Foy, a 24-year-old whose record is 1-1 (1). It happened in the sixth round of a six-round spar, and Vanderpool had gone six hard rounds with another sparring partner earlier that day.

Lots of fight writers and other analysts noticed that, against Vargas, Vanderpool's legs appeared gone by the fifth round. After the bout, his right leg was taped from ankle to knee. In order to move around, he needed the support of two friends, one on each side. As the other writers flocked around star Vargas, THE RING asked Vanderpool about his ankle.

"I twisted it when I slipped on the canvas," he said. "It started blowing up right away."

Which round?

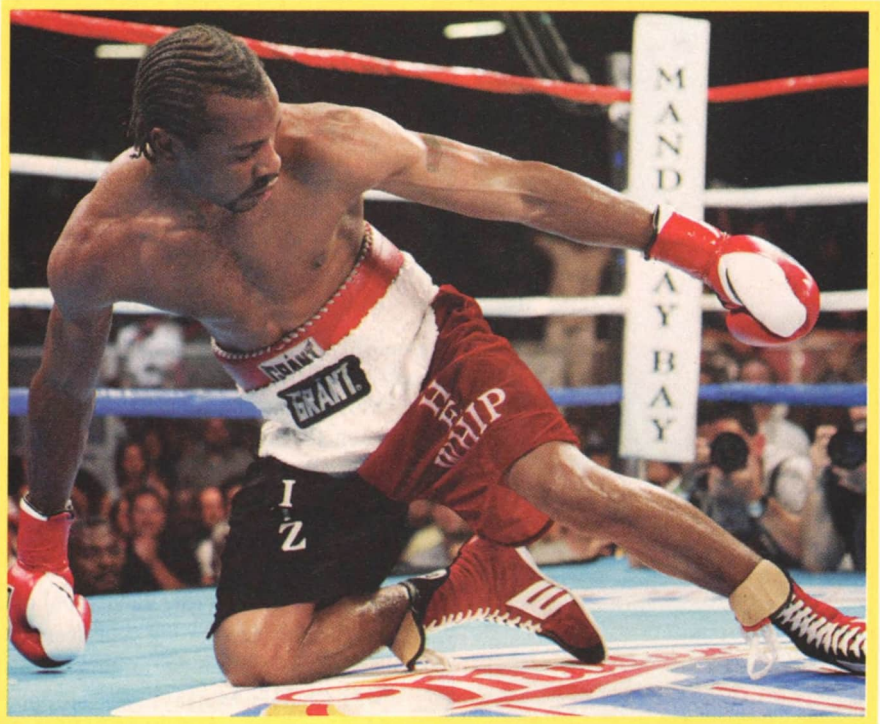
"An earlier round," he said.

Fighters rarely know the exact round anything happens. Inside the ring, it's all of a piece. The injury was probably inflicted in round four, when he first slipped on the slick beer logo. He slipped three more times during the contest. Canvas logos, which seem to grow every year, have been threatening to cause serious injury for years. But Vanderpool was not a star, and the marketing atrocity went virtually unnoticed.

A 35-year-old who went in with a record of 24-4-4 (13), Vanderpool did not exactly have a big-time resume. The most recognizable name on it was Charles Murray, who stopped him in six rounds in 1995. Although the WBC ranked him its number-one contender, that made about as much

*Vargas thrusts his glove skyward (left) as he acknowledges his devoted fans who bought tickets for his fight with Fitz Vanderpool at the Grand Olympic Auditorium (below). A sellout crowd was on hand for what everyone knew in advance would be a one-sided comeback fight.*

*In his first fight with Buddy McGirt (left) in his corner, Vargas was slow to apply the boxing style McGirt was emphasizing. Eduardo Garcia (right), who has trained Vargas since the first time "El Feroz" entered the gym, remains on as co-trainer.*




*Vanderpool slipped to the canvas on the hazardous beer logos four times in the fight, and said he suffered an injury to his right leg as a result. Had it been superstar Vargas who was felled by the dangerous advertisement, it certainly wouldn't have been glossed over like it was with Vanderpool.*

sense as O.J.'s alibi. Vanderpool fell short in speed and power. It is clear Vargas' handlers did not want to put him in tough for this one.

Vargas, a 1996 Olympian, displayed boxing prowess when he won the IBF title at the tender age of 21. Thoroughly outclassing the powerful Yory Boy Campas, he used his jab beautifully and moved well. He busted up Campas a little at a time until the titleholder surrendered in round seven.

California matchmaker Jerry Bilderrain, who's been watching Vargas since his amateur days, saw no evidence of that slickness against Vanderpool.

"I'm sorry, but Vargas just hasn't got anything left," Bilderrain concluded. "People are expecting him to get better after three or more fights under the guidance of Buddy McGirt. I don't care what you do in the corner. Buddy, Angelo Dundee, it doesn't matter. Nothing is going to change with this guy.

"After three or four fights, you put

*Once Vargas started jabbing and using angles, he closed the show in his typically calculated and effective manner. The fight was stopped at 2:36 of the sixth, yet while Vargas was dominant throughout, he did little to silence those who believe his best days are behind him.*

him in with someone dangerous, he's all through. Believe me, I'd like to see him come back and shine. But he won't. He will resort to that macho s___. He's habitual, a creature of habit, and there's no way out for him in that ring."

Paradoxically, Vargas' hyper-eagerness, which puts both his success rate and his health in jeopardy, is very much responsible for his popularity. Fans know that when Vargas gets in trouble, he won't clinch or run. He will follow his instinct, which is to try to get the other guy in trouble.

In December 2000, Trinidad, penalized twice for low blows, knocked Vargas down five times, starting in the first round. Yet Fernando never stopped trying. He even knocked Trinidad down in round four, nearly pulling off a tremendous come-from-behind victory.

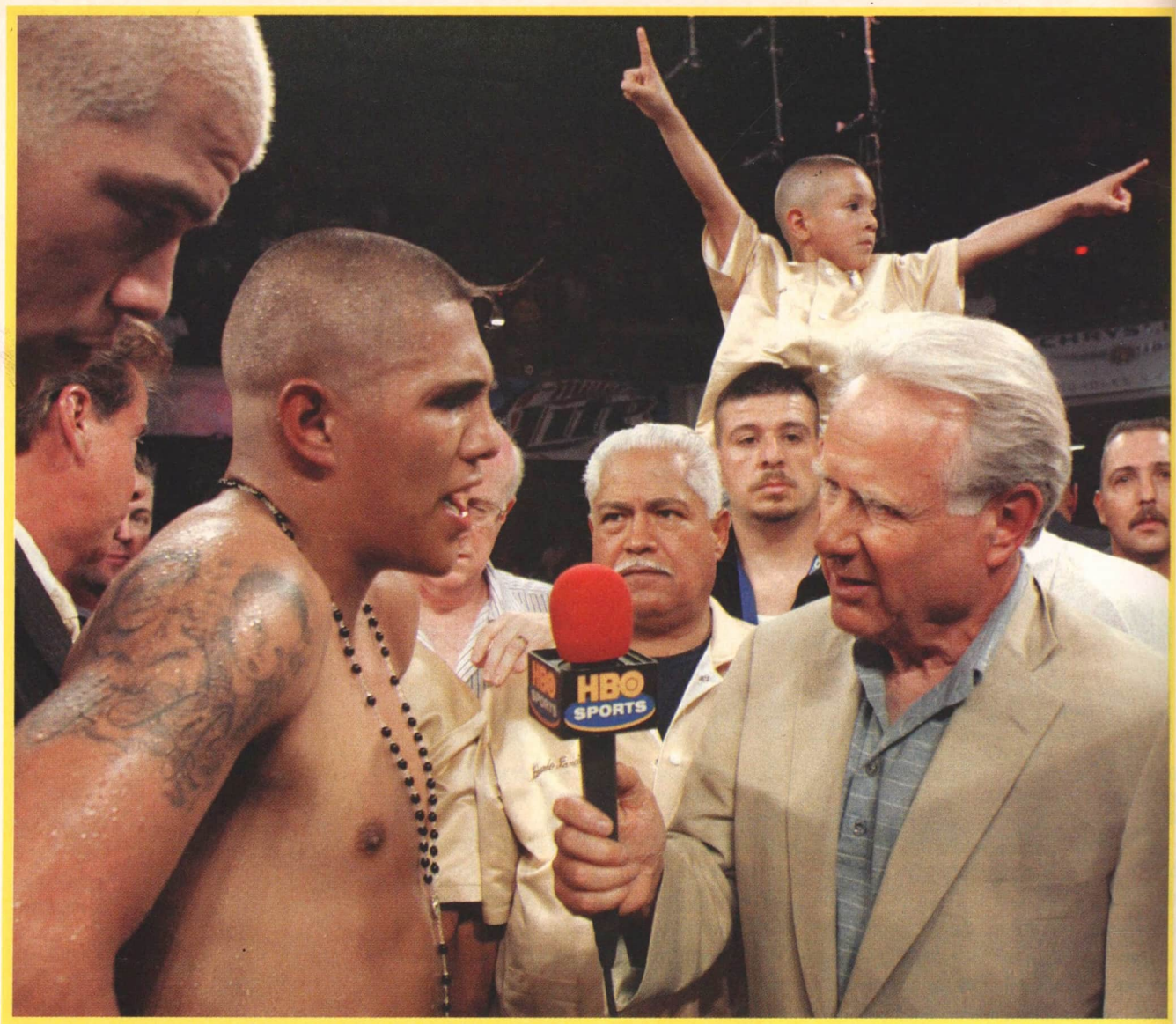
Vargas' trainer, Eduardo Garcia, supposedly a father figure to the fighter, never made a move to stop the Trinidad fight, even though it was clear to just about everybody before the last two knockdowns that the cause was hopeless. For that reason alone, it was worthwhile to bring in McGirt. One of the hottest trainers in the business, he brings a cerebral foundation into the mix.

Trickmaster McGirt, who held belts at welterweight and junior welter, appeared to work wonders with Arturo Gatti, another slugger who needed more finesse in his game. In his very first fight with McGirt in the corner, Gatti showed the difference. Vargas didn't. Throwing only 55 jabs out of 243 punches, he did achieve an impressive overall connect rate of 51 percent.

"He certainly didn't look like a shot fighter in any way," Moretti said. "You have to remember that he had a one-year layoff after fighting Shibata Flores, and then he went in against De La Hoya. Then there was the 10-month layoff. That's not many rounds in two years.

"But his legs were fine, and his punches were fine. Did he do some things wrong? Did he get hit? Absolutely. But he had only a month-and-a-half with McGirt. That wasn't enough time to bring out what Buddy is trying to teach him."

Said Vargas: "I was thinking in there that I want to use Buddy's style. But you




***At 25, Vargas is growing up, as is his eldest son, Papas (background), who was just a toddler when his dad won his first title. Vargas was not pleased with his performance, telling HBO's Larry Merchant he could only give himself a three on a scale of one to 10.***

always start out using your old style. Then in the middle of the fight, you realize you're trying too hard. Vanderpool is an awkward guy. He punched from different angles and he came to win. He was no pushover."

On a scale of one to 10, Vargas, whose record improved to 23-2 (21), graded himself at only three. No one could call him complacent.

McGirt pronounced himself satisfied with his pupil's progress. It remains to be seen whether the New York-bred McGirt can truly fit in with Team Vargas out of Oxnard, California.

Vargas, without realizing it, improved tremendously in one department. He got through an entire postfight press conference without telling everyone he plans to destroy De La Hoya. Vargas found a new, healthier way to define himself.

Something that hasn't changed is that he never forgets where he's from—the hardscrabble La Colonia gym in Oxnard. The fans see this and love him for it.

"This sport needs stars, and he's one of them," Moretti said. "Is he on a best pound-for-pound list? I don't know. But he sold out the Olympic in practically three days.

"It was one of the hardest promotions we had to deal with as far as ticket availability. We asked HBO for our tickets back, but they already gave all theirs out."

The Olympic, just as it was in the old days, was filled with hardcore fans, some of them Hollywood stars. They included Sylvester Stallone, James Caan, Tony Danza, and character actors whose faces you know but whose names you don't. Before the fight, desperate fans paced around the outside of the building with signs declaring they needed tickets.

"Fernando is an 'A' fighter, an action fighter, somebody that people want to see," Moretti said. "There's no belt around Micky Ward's waist either. People don't care. He sells out anywhere he fights."

Sometimes you learn more about a fighter from his defeats than his victories. That's clearly true in Vargas' case. But determined warriors like him don't get that way by accepting defeat. They fight it with everything they've got. That's why we keep watching them. ■

***Ivan Goldman is THE RING'S West Coast correspondent.***

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# FIVE-TIME FEATHERWEIGHT TITLIST

# MANUEL MEDINA

*In a major upset, Medina utilized his vast experience and boxing expertise to win a unanimous decision over streaking Scott Harrison in Glasgow, Scotland. It was the fifth time the remarkable Mexican veteran has won a title belt during his 18-year professional career.*

## The Oddsmakers' Nightmare Strikes Again!

*Despite his spotty 62-13 (28) record and unimposing physical appearance, Medina was too slick for the younger, stronger Harrison. Here he ducks under a left and delivers a right to the body. The cagey Mexican also made good use of his savvy footwork to stay away from his foe's punches.*

PHOTOS BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

**By Gavin Evans**

Manuel Medina might not be the greatest featherweight of the modern era—not by a long shot—but when it comes to picking future Hall of Fame candidates, his name, while surely not too high on the list, will have to be given serious consideration. In his 14 years at or near the pinnacle of his division, the sad-faced Medina has shown a remarkable ability to bounce back from defeat in a manner that so often defies the oddsmakers' logic.

Every time we write him off, Medina makes fools of us by pulling off an upset to lift yet another title. In fact, not since Sugar Ray Robinson's five spells as world middleweight champion has a boxer won so many titles in a single division. None of them were undisputed world titles, but

***First of many: Medina cracks Troy Dorsey with a left hook en route to winning the IBF 126-pound belt back in August 1991. It was the first of the five featherweight titles Medina has won.***

three spells as IBF titleholder and one as WBC boss certainly say something for his fortitude.

Medina's latest triumph is perhaps his most remarkable. At the age of 32, in his 75th fight and having been decimated by Juan Manuel Marquez five months earlier, he delivered a one-sided boxing lesson to the powerful Scott Harrison, a boxer previously hailed in Britain as a future all-time great. The fact that the WBO belt was on the line was insignificant from a historical standpoint, but will surely sweeten Medina's purse the next time out.

The skinny Mexican was already a veteran of 43 fights when he outboxed Troy Dorsey to lift the IBF featherweight belt 12 years earlier. He defended that title four times, including a technical win over Tom "Boom Boom" Johnson, before dropping a split decision to Johnson in the return. But after failing in a bid to lift the IBF junior lightweight title from John-John Molina, and then losing the rubber match against Johnson, Medina looked to be on the slide. Yet he rallied and, in September 1995, pulled off a significant upset by licking the then-rampant Alejandro "Cobrita" Gonzalez for the WBC title.

Medina has proved far better at winning titles than holding them. Three months after beating Gonzalez, he dropped a decision and the belt to Luisito Espinosa, after which he was dispatched to Ireland as canon fodder for Naseem Hamed. "The Prince" was suffering from a severe chest infection, but this seemed to make no difference at first. He dropped Medina heavily in the second round and seemed set for another early blowout. Instead, the Mexican surprised by outboxing Hamed over several rounds and even wobbling him with a right cross. In the end, Hamed's power told, and he dropped Medina twice more before his corner pulled him out at the end of round 11.

That brave performance, however, was followed by a second loss to Espinosa and then a one-sided ninth-round knockout at the hands of future WBA featherweight beltholder Derrick Gainer, who matched his height and footwork and was quicker and harder-hitting. Once again, Medina's career seemed ripe for the obit columns, and yet, eight months on, he bounced back to outclass Hector Lizarraga to regain the IBF title.

His second defense of his third reign came in Britain against local favorite Paul Ingle, a whirlwind pressure fighter who gave opponents no room to breathe. Ingle floored Medina twice in round two and again in round 10. But in the final round, Medina went to war, dropping Ingle heavily, cutting him, and battering him around the ring. An embittered Medina claimed he was "robbed by dirty tricks" involving shenanigans with Ingle's gumshield that gave the Englishman time to recover, although from ringside it looked more like the Mexican simply ran out of time.

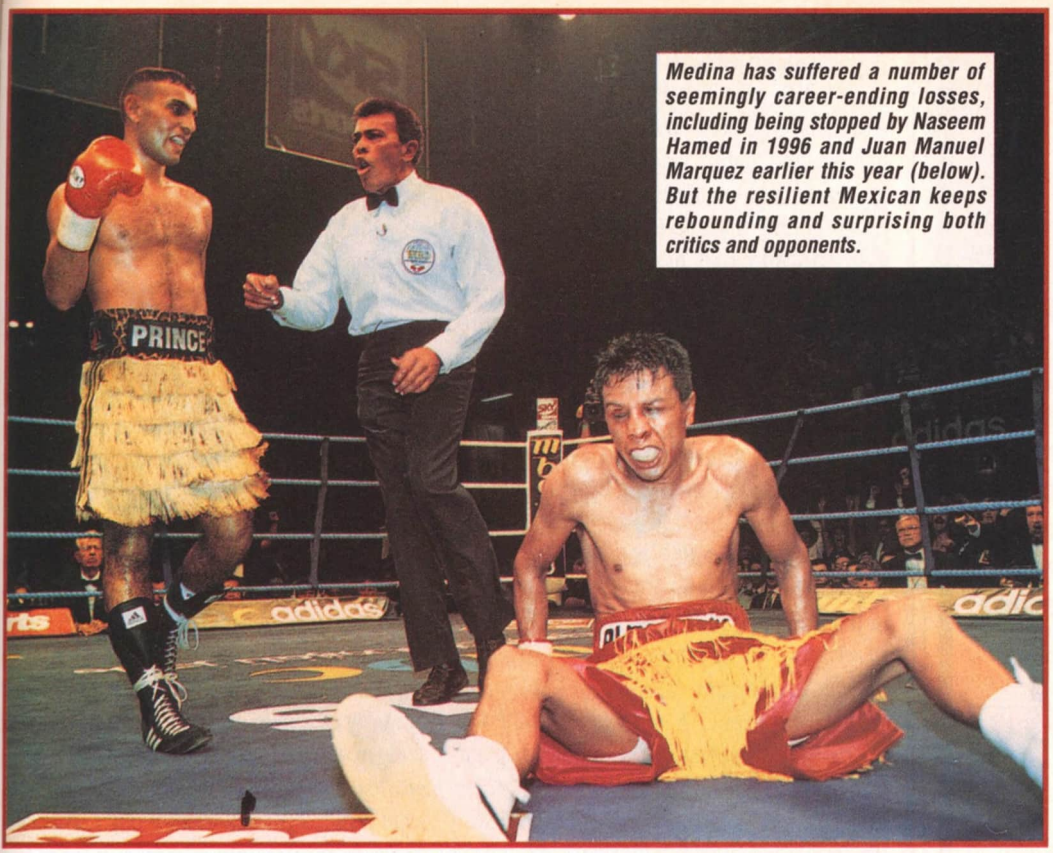
Once again we thought this remarkable road warrior's career had run out of steam, and once again he proved us wrong. Two years on, he stopped Frankie Toledo in six rounds to claim the IBF title for the third time. He went on to put on one of the great performances of his long career by outboxing Johnny Tapia—throwing a CompuBox record of 1,466 punches—only to lose the crown on a diabolical decision.

"I never fought that type of fighter who just sticks and moves and runs all night," Tapia admitted. "He moved all night, and with him being like 5'11" (actually, 5'9") with a long reach, it was hard to get to him."

But any hope of yet another Indian summer seemed to be dashed when Medina fought Marquez for the vacant IBF crown. He could not keep his countryman away, getting wobbled in the first round, dropped in the second, and after a brief rally, dropped again in the seventh round before the ringside doctor mercifully decided his cuts and swellings were too severe for him to continue. It was Medina's worst-ever defeat, and this time it seemed certain that his time was up. Two months later, however, he stopped fellow Mexican Juan Ruiz in five rounds in a rare outing in his hometown of Tijuana, before pulling off the biggest upset of them all by whipping Harrison.

To give a sense of the shock this caused in Britain, it is worth explaining how highly Harrison was regarded on these shores. While other British prospects—most notably Ricky Hatton—are fed with aging, handpicked fodder, no such caution was taken with Harrison because no one doubted he was for real.

Going into the fight, the 25-year-old Glaswegian had an unremarkable 19-1-1 (9) record, but the loss was on cuts in his fourth bout (vs. Miguel Matthews) and the draw was in the backyard of his French opponent (Stephane Fernandez) in his fifth. After that, he worked his way up the



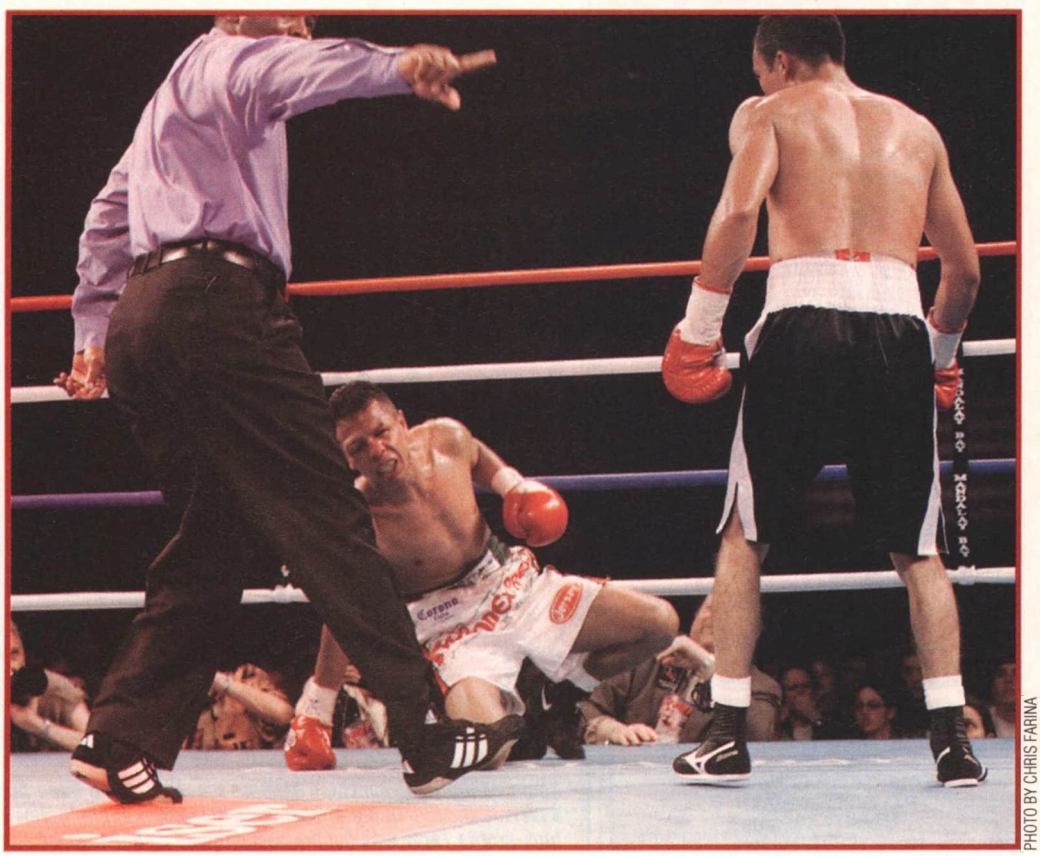

*Medina has suffered a number of seemingly career-ending losses, including being stopped by Naseem Hamed in 1996 and Juan Manuel Marquez earlier this year (below). But the resilient Mexican keeps rebounding and surprising both critics and opponents.*

ranks with wide points wins over former titleholders Tracy Patterson and Tom Johnson and a brutal stoppage over former European champion Steve Robinson before winning an easy, unanimous decision over Julio Pablo Chacon for the WBO belt. Harrison next battered Wayne McCullough to defeat over 12 painfully one-sided rounds. His margin of victory was far wider than Erik Morales, Naseem Hamed, or Daniel Zaragoza managed over the Irishman, and after a couple of nights in the hospital, McCullough remarked that none of these three could match Harrison's strength.

The cold-eyed, 5'7" Harrison is huge for a featherweight, with broad shoulders, a wide back, and thick limbs, and with his ramrod jab, heavy crosses and hooks, tight defense, and impervious chin, it was hard to see how a frail old man like Medina could survive. And if you harbored the slightest doubt, it was sure to be washed away by the conviction of the Scotsman's minders.

Frank Warren, Harrison's promoter, rated him above a peak Hamed. His manager, Frank Maloney went farther, saying Harrison was the best boxer ever to emerge from Scotland (better, presumably, than Ken Buchanan, Benny Lynch, or Jim Watt). "I don't believe Marco Antonio Barrera is the number-one fighter in the world; Scott Harrison is," he announced on the eve of the fight. "I really think he could go and fight Lennox Lewis and beat him. I am not joking. I really believe it. I have never met a fighter like him before. He is unique."

So you get the picture: the all-conquering savior of British boxing set to roll over the shot veteran, chosen as a name victim to build Harrison's reputation in Mexico in preparation for his inevitable triumph over Barrera. The dour Scotsman, who boasted of training harder than ever before (and he always trains fanatically), was scornful about Medina's credentials, saying he was not his best



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opponent and that he expected to retire him by round seven.

Medina responded by saying Harrison was a "boy" who was not in Hamed's league, and that he was "still being walked to school and having his nose wiped while I was getting my ring education."

Still, some of his prefight remarks made one wonder whether he really believed it. For instance, Medina candidly admitted he was too scared to watch tapes of Harrison in action. "I have only seen one round of him, when he fought McCullough, because I wouldn't be able to sleep if I was to watch him more." To which his manager Ignacio Huizar added: "He gets nervous if he sees his opponents' fights. I'm not joking. We do the job and tell him what to do in the gym."

To the astonishment of Harrison's 5,000 supporters who packed into the Braehead Arena, Medina followed his instructions flawlessly, and made the local lad look like a novice. Now and then Medina would ease off, allowing Harrison to land the odd heavy, single punch, but, as is his habit, the Mexican always rebounded.

Medina is not a big whacker (28 stoppages in 62 wins), he doesn't have the fastest hands in the division, he cuts and bruises easily, and he's been stopped five times and dropped many more. But he uses his assets to their best advantage. With his height, he invariably outreaches his opponents and he knows how to keep them at the end of his long, pesky jab. To achieve this, he deploys magnificent footwork, covering every inch of the canvas as he circles his adversary. His sense of distance and timing is impressive, and he has sharp reflexes, which allows him to step in with quick one-twos and then dance away again. He's also a highly effective counterpuncher. On top of all this, he has immense stamina and a huge heart.

Medina used all this to trounce Harrison, who was exposed for his lack of speed and head movement and his inability to cut off the ring. Like Joe Louis against Ezzard Charles, the Scotsman had to be lifted off his stool to go into the final round, leaking blood from the left eye and nose, with his face covered in welts and lumps.

THE RING had Medina winning by a conservative six points (former welterweight contender Gary Jacobs said he couldn't give his fellow Scot a single round), but American judge Larry Hazzard Jr. had the audacity to make Harrison a two-point winner, a score that puts him right up there with Eugenia Williams (Lewis-Holyfield I) and Mickey Vann (Whitaker-Chavez) in showing evidence of suffering from judicial dyslexia. Fortunately, the other two judges saw sense, giving it to Medina by 118-113 (Britain's Roy Francis) and 116-112 (America's Melvina Lathan).

PHOTO BY WILL HART/HBO

***Some of the light-punching Medina's defeats have been bad decisions. Most observers felt he deserved the nod in his 12-rounder with Johnny Tapia in New York City in April 2002. But it was the high-profile Tapia who got the decision and a shot at world champ Marco Antonio Barrera.***

PHOTO BY JOHN GICHIGI/GETTY IMAGES

***Medina squeezes out a rare smile as his personal physician, Dr. Roman Cruz, holds his arm aloft after the Harrison victory. Harrison would love an immediate rematch, but Medina's camp might want to take an easier defense first. Judging by Medina's past, however, there are no easy defenses.***

No doubt recalling the Tapia robbery, Medina had an anxious wait, and then fell to the floor after the decision was announced.

"The man who gave it to Scott was obviously at a different fight," said Huizar, who has guided Medina's career since he turned pro as a 14-year-old kid in 1985. "If you don't show who's in control, you'll lose, but we had a game plan and we stuck to it. Manuel knew he could not stand and trade, so he moved and used his boxing skills. Manuel made him miss a lot, and I told him to keep him busy. I am so proud of him."

Searching for excuses on how they could get it so wrong, the British fight media speculated about Harrison's weight troubles and overtraining, while Harrison simply admitted he was not the better man on this day.

"I don't think I was right from the start of the fight," he said. "I couldn't pick it up and it just wasn't there. I feel devastated. I just have to get back into training and rip the title back off him again."

Given Medina's up-and-down record, such a turnabout would hardly be astonishing, although he may well have to wait a while. Maloney and Warren are talking up a September or October return, but Huizar points out that the rematch clause allows Medina to milk the accolades for 10 months.

"I have made history by becoming a five-time world champion," Medina said. "I always fight outside of my country, but I fight for the people of my hometown and for Mexico, and I think this victory makes me one of the greatest fighters ever. It will be very good for my family and for me."

Five times *world* champion? One of the greatest *ever*? Well, maybe not, but let's not quibble. We've all undersold Manuel Medina for so long, that a bit of hyperbole is acceptable. He is not one of those whose legend is built through a brief peak of devastating performances, but if longevity and resilience are part of the package of greatness, then the Mexican thin man is indeed up there with the best. ■

***Gavin Evans is a British freelance writer and the author of* Dancing Shoes Is Dead, *a critically acclaimed book about South African boxing.***

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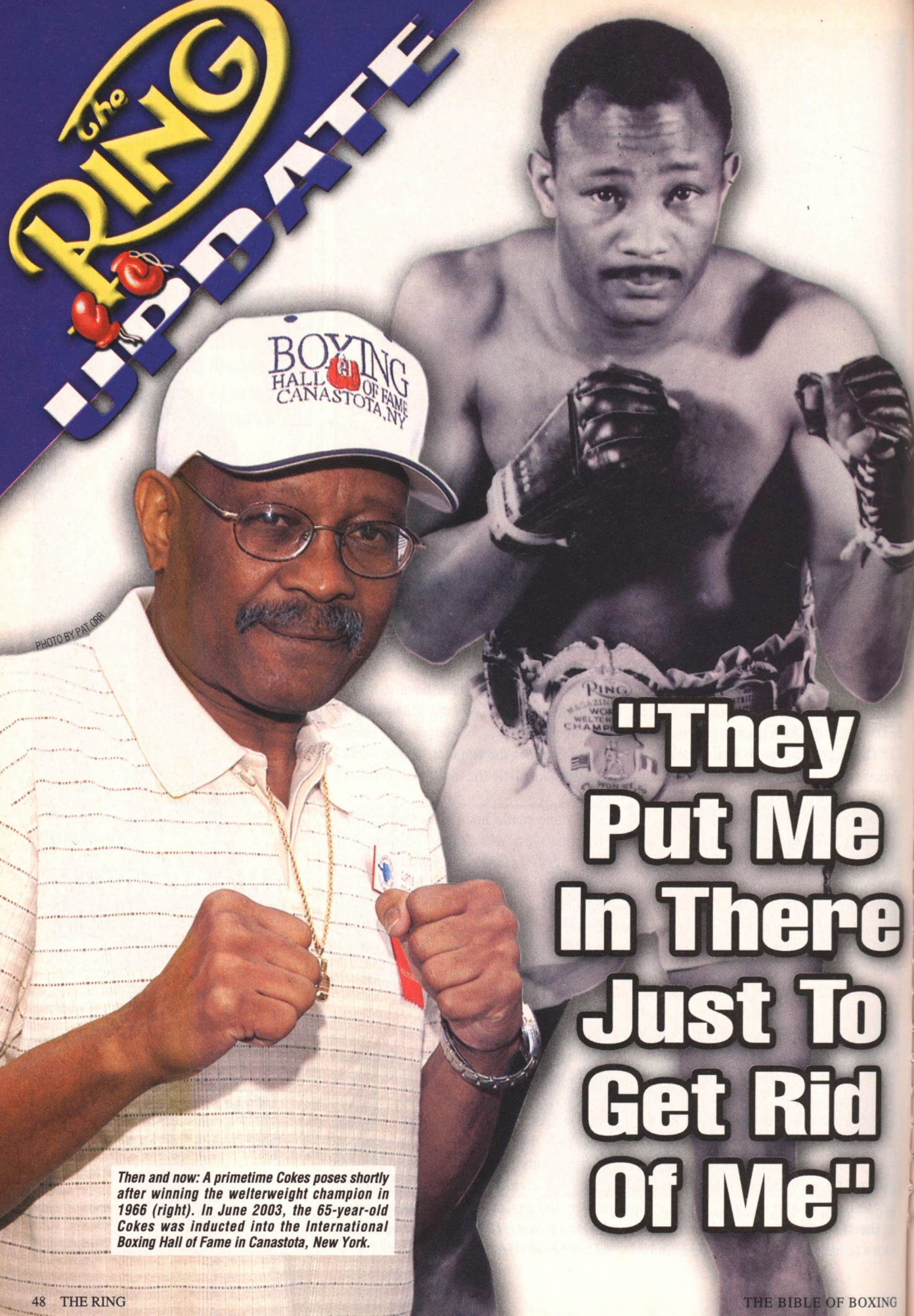



# "They Put Me In There Just To Get Rid Of Me"

*Then and now: A primetime Cokes poses shortly after winning the welterweight champion in 1966 (right). In June 2003, the 65-year-old Cokes was inducted into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in Canastota, New York.*

# Former Welterweight Champion

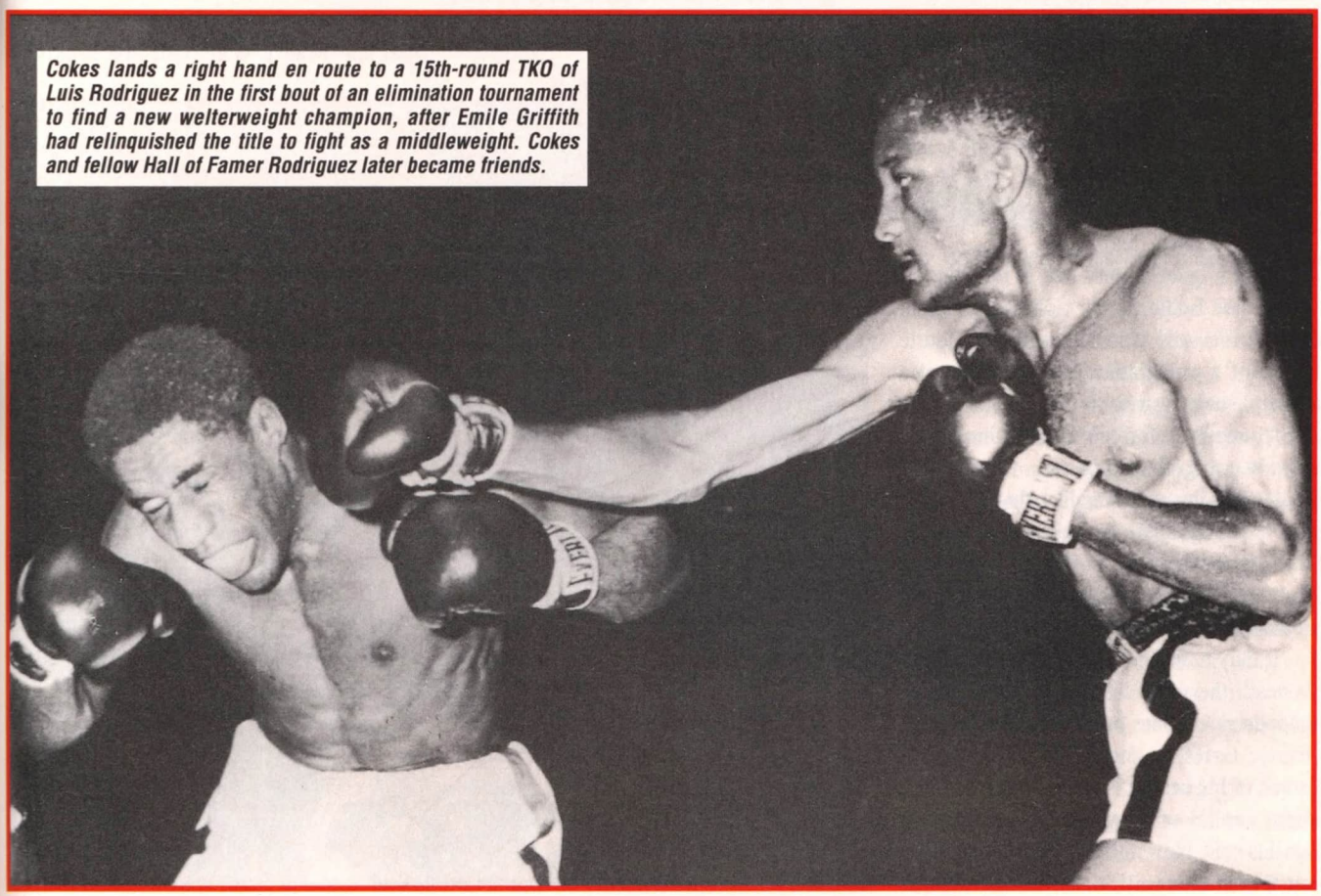
# CURTIS COKES

**By Robert Cassidy**

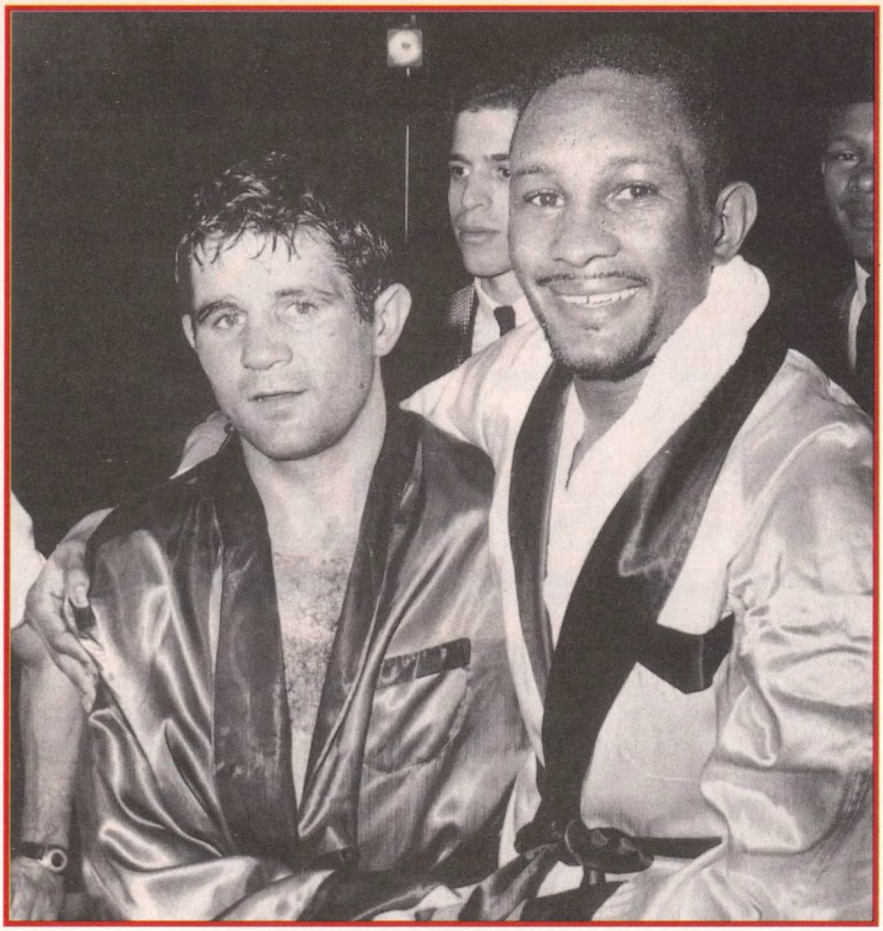
There was never any doubt that Curtis Cokes wanted to remain in boxing his entire life. The smell of the gyms, the roar of the crowd, and the sweet satisfaction of victory were too much to give up. It all got inside of his soul and he couldn't chase it away. Truth is he really didn't want to.

Boxing has defined Cokes and, with his induction into the International Boxing Hall of Fame in June, it has immortalized him as well. The man has spent over 40 years in the Sweet Science and he has served his sport with honor. Given boxing's sordid lot of characters, that achievement speaks more about the man than the welterweight title he claimed or the crop of young fighters he has developed.

When a fighter reaches the pinnacle, as Cokes has, it can become difficult to start over again. Who wants to sit in a stale, hot gym when you've trained at a luxurious



*Cokes lands a right hand en route to a 15th-round TKO of Luis Rodriguez in the first bout of an elimination tournament to find a new welterweight champion, after Emile Griffith had relinquished the title to fight as a middleweight. Cokes and fellow Hall of Famer Rodriguez later became friends.*



*Frenchman Jean Josselin congratulates Cokes after losing a 15-round decision in Dallas, Texas (above). The victory brought Cokes international recognition as world welterweight champion, but he didn't feel like the real champion until Nat Fleischer gave him his RING championship belt (below).*

training camp? Who wants to put in a 60-hour week for a four-round bout when you've had your hand raised after going 15?

Curtis Cokes, that's who.

With a quiet dignity that is reminiscent of the late Eddie Futch, Cokes goes about his business as a trainer with the gentle touch of a grandfather and the focus of a general studying a battlefield.

"Some great fighters kind of think it's a putdown to go back and train fighters," he said. "But it was never like that for me. I just loved the sport. To stay with it, or stay in it, the easiest way to do that was to train fighters. I like working with fighters and seeing them develop."

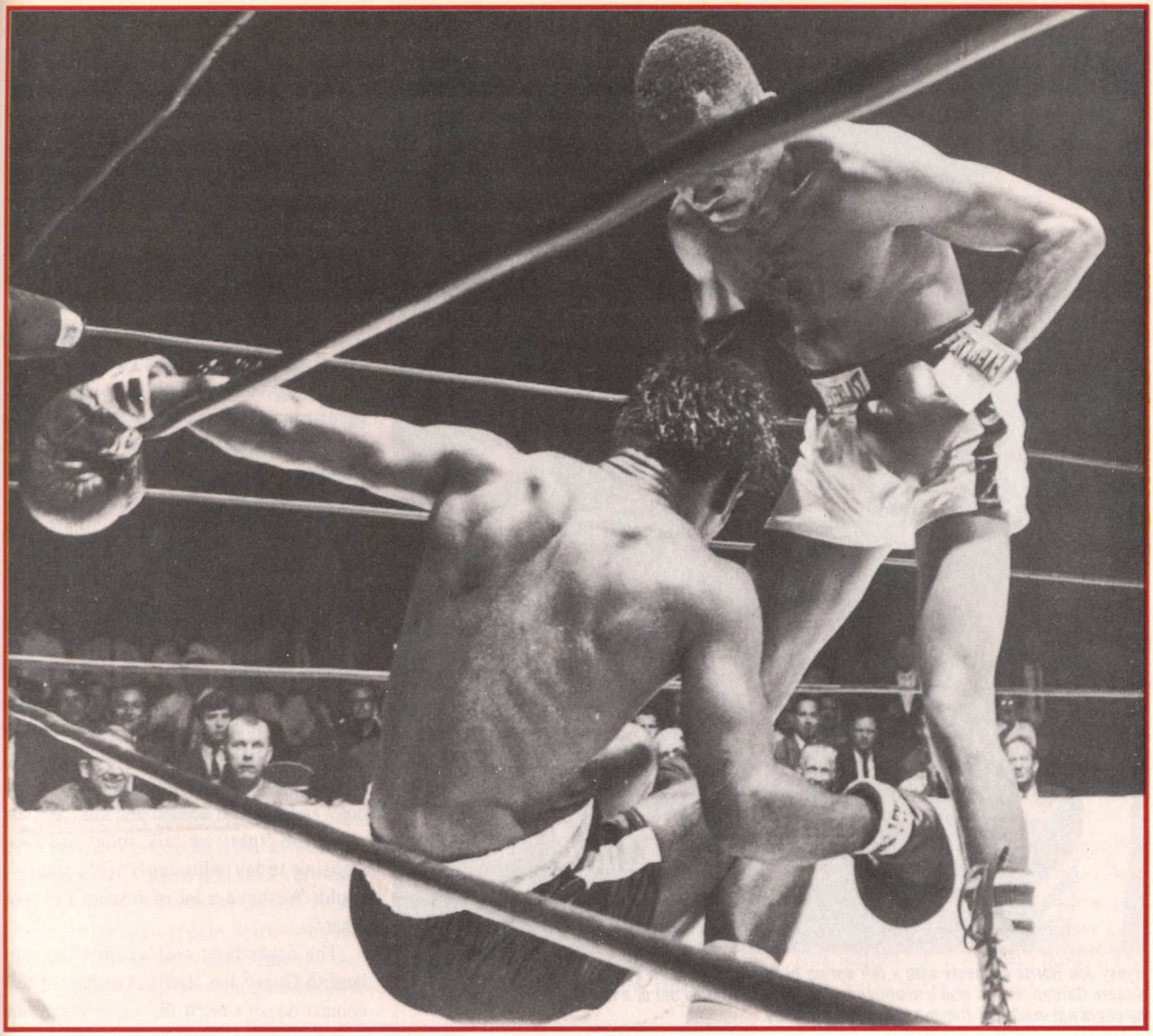
It may have been easy for Cokes to slip beneath the radar. His reign as champion happened to come between all-time greats Emile Griffith and Jose Napoles. For much of his career, New York was still the fight capital of the world, so fighting in Dallas and New Orleans hardly guaranteed him recognition. Although he was voted into the Hall of Fame as a fighter, there is no doubt that his success as a trainer helped him raise his profile in the minds of voters.

"Cokes fought in an era when there were lots of good fighters out there," said Emanuel Steward. "He was a great right-hand puncher with lots of patience. As a trainer, he's been nothing but a gentleman. I'm glad to see him getting his glory. He deserves to be inducted."

Cokes entered Canastota's hallowed halls on June 8, a week before he turned 65. In a career that spanned 14 years as a fighter, he won the world welterweight title and compiled a 62-14-3 (30) record. He was a classic counterpuncher, but he could also do significant damage with a straight right.

"It is a tremendous feeling to be inducted, and I'm happy because I got into the Hall of Fame with a bunch of friends of mine who I fought, who I grew up with," said Cokes. "And they are here, and now I'm here, and I'm happy to be here. It's a great feeling."

Baseball, and not boxing, was Cokes' first love. He was a talented shortstop who was being scouted by the Los Angeles Dodgers. He realized, however, that perennial star Maury Wills had just broken in



***Although not known as a big puncher, Cokes stopped challenger Francois Pavilla in the 10th round in May 1967, the first of the Texan's four successful title defenses. It was Cokes' sharp right hand that did most of the damage.***

with the team and figured his chances of supplanting Wills were slim. He also played basketball with Goose Tatum on the Harlem Stars, a rival team of the Harlem Globetrotters. But Cokes, who is 5'10", felt he was too small to make a career out of basketball.

"I thought to myself, *I need to find something my size*, and boxing was the next step," said Cokes. "Boxing was just something that I did, and I did it a little better than most people. The other sports helped me; I had good timing because of baseball and basketball. And it was easy to teach me how to fight. A trainer didn't have to go through what he might go through with other amateur boxers. Athletically, I was already a step ahead of them. The transition came pretty easy."

So did success.

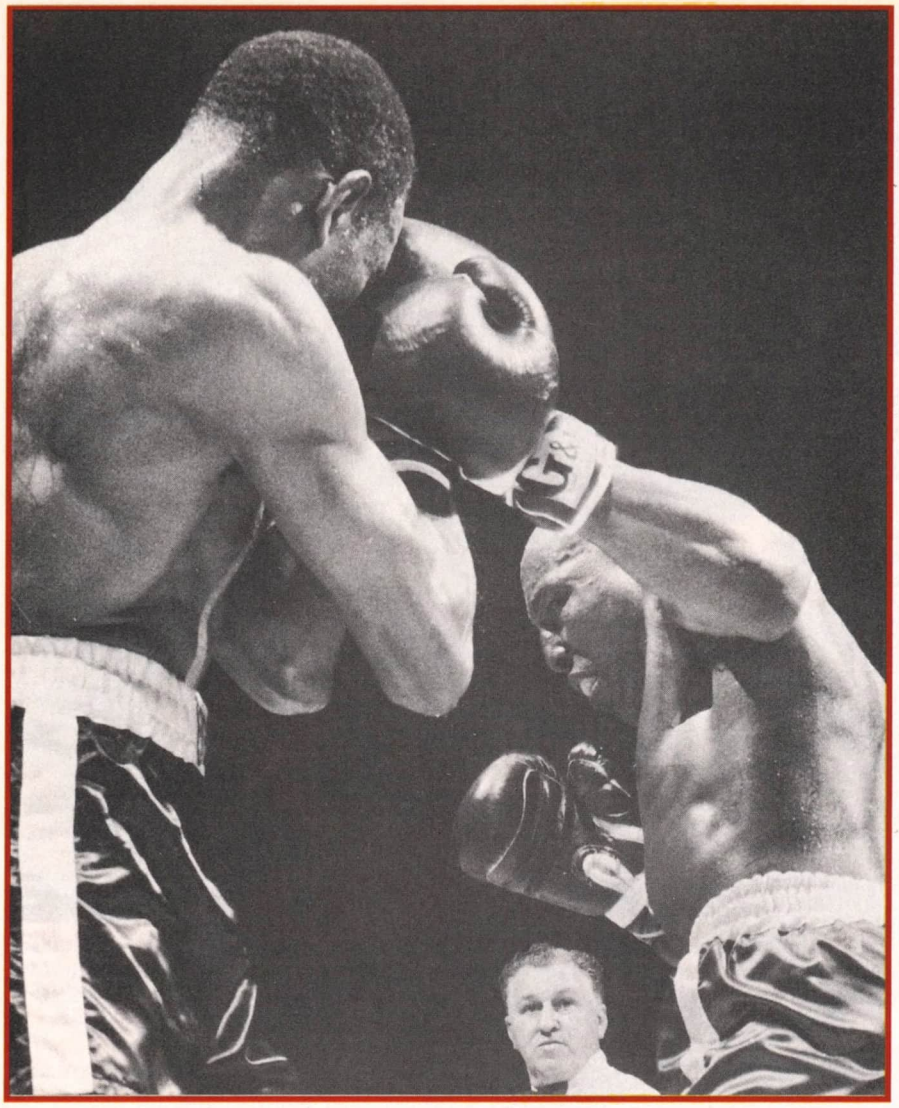
In 1958, at the age of 20, Cokes turned pro and scored a six-round decision over Manny Gonzalez, a man he'd fight five times and would later beat for the vacant WBA welterweight title. Three years into his career, he had wins over Joe Miceli, Tombstone Smith, and Luis Rodriguez, plus a draw with Kenny Lane, to become a permanent fixture in the ratings.

The opportunity to fight for a world title finally came when Emile Griffith vacated to move to the middleweight division. In 1966, the WBA arranged an elimination tournament in which Cokes was matched with former champion Rodriguez in the first round. The two had already split a pair of previous bouts.

"They put me in there just to get rid of me," said Cokes. "I was hanging around in the ratings at about number five. They put me in there to fight Luis, and they figured Luis would beat me and then they'd be done with me. Then I upset the cart and I knocked out Luis Rodriguez."

That fight may be remembered more for what occurred prior to the opening bell. When Rodriguez, who was a native of Cuba, departed Miami for the fight in New Orleans, the plane was hijacked to Cuba.

"The fight was delayed 10 days," recalled Cokes. "Then I knew I had a better shot at beating Luis because he was upset over the plane being hijacked. It also



***Gypsy Joe Harris connects with a left during his March 1967 non-title bout with Cokes at Madison Square Garden. Harris won a unanimous decision, but pulled out of a title fight with Cokes because he could not make the division limit of 147 pounds.***

helped the gate. There was a lot of publicity. We sold the place out because of the hijacking."

Cokes considered Rodriguez, who died in 1996, a great fighter and a friend.

"Luis was probably one of the best fighters I ever fought in my career," he said. "Luis and I became good friends. I learned a lot from him—how to jab and move and turn. Some of the stuff he was doing to me in the ring, I caught on to it. In terms of getting a Ph.D in boxing, Luis had one."

After beating Rodriguez, the remaining obstacle to the title was Gonzalez, whom Cokes had already defeated three times. On August 24, 1966, at the Municipal Auditorium in New Orleans, Cokes scored a unanimous decision over his old foe to capture the WBA belt.

But the politics of boxing would dampen Cokes' victory. He was not recognized universally as world champion and would have to fight European champ Jean Josselin in November to solidify the title.

"When I beat Manny, I thought I was world champion," Cokes said. "Then they told me I had to win another fight. I said, 'Here I go again.' So I was kind of frustrated. Then they brought Josselin in, I beat him, and it was over with. When I saw [RING Publisher] Nat Fleischer bring in the belt, that was it. When he gave me that belt, I knew I was world champion. That moment was the highlight of my career."

As undisputed champion, Cokes successfully defended his title against Francois Pavilla, Charlie Shipes, Willie Ludick, and Ramon LaCruz.

Cokes' title reign came to an end when he met Jose Napoles at the Great Western Forum in Inglewood, California, on April 18, 1969. The fight was stopped by Cokes' corner after the 13th round with the champion's vision severely hampered due to swelling around both eyes.

"When I lost to Napoles, I wasn't ashamed, because he was a great fighter. I got him when he was coming up and I was going out." They met in a rematch a little more than two months later, and Cokes was halted in the 10th round.

While Cokes continued to fight until '72, it's worth noting that two of his more memorable contests took place in non-title fights against a pair of Philadelphia boxing legends. In what more than a few experts consider one of the greatest fights ever at the Blue Horizon, Cokes was stopped by Stanley "Kitten" Hayward in the fourth round in May '64. It was a seesaw battle, with both men making trips to the canvas.

"I'm glad people remember that fight the way they do because we were fighting, we were really fighting," said Cokes. "I had Kitten down early, but he got up and I ran out of gas. He had me down three times. It was a good fight. When I go to Philly and Kitten is around, he'll always come by the hotel and we'll sit around and talk. We talk about the fight; we talk about the guys fighting today who can't fight like we could. We have a lot of respect for each other."

The other bout was against the outlandish Gypsy Joe Harris. Mention of that contest doesn't elicit the same warm and fuzzy memories from Cokes. Harris was a boxing enigma, a whirlwind of activity and movement. He was unbeaten and the number-one contender when he scored a 10-round decision over Cokes at Madison Square Garden in March '67.

"I think you had to beat him real bad," said Cokes, who lost a unanimous decision by scores of 7-2-1, 7-3, and 4-3-3 under the old New York rounds system. "I won that fight, but they gave him the decision. They wanted him to fight me for the world title. I didn't have any problem with Gypsy Joe Harris. He would do all kinds of crazy stuff in the ring, but he didn't do it with me because I was a right-hand puncher. I hit him a couple of times and it bothered him, so he didn't do all that silly stuff with me. We gave him a title shot, but he didn't show up because he couldn't make 147 pounds."

A second career began to take shape even before Cokes left the ring.

He played the role of "Earl" in the critically acclaimed boxing movie *Fat City*. The fighter forged a friendship with director John Huston, who asked Cokes if he would like to appear in future films. Cokes agreed, but at the time of Huston's next production, he was fighting in South Africa, where he would close out his career with three bouts. Huston died before they were able to work together again.

"He was a very nice man and it was interesting to work for him," Cokes said of Huston. "He took a liking to me and we got along real well. Unfortunately, it didn't work out."

So Cokes returned to the boxing gyms in and around Dallas. Among his more recent pupils are former WBC middleweight titlist Quincy Taylor, former heavyweight contender Ike Ibeabuchi, and current contender Kirk Johnson.

Cokes believes that being a counterpuncher prepared him well for his role as a trainer. Over the course of 80 pro fights, he dissected a variety of different styles, assessing each individual opponent, and then figuring out a way to beat him. He does the same thing now, except he does it for his fighters.

"He's very patient and he's very calm in the corner," said veteran cutman Jimmy Glenn, who also works with Johnson. "Those characteristics come through during a fight. He has the right personality to be a trainer. The fighter responds to him, so he gets what he wants out of the fighter. He's a good man."

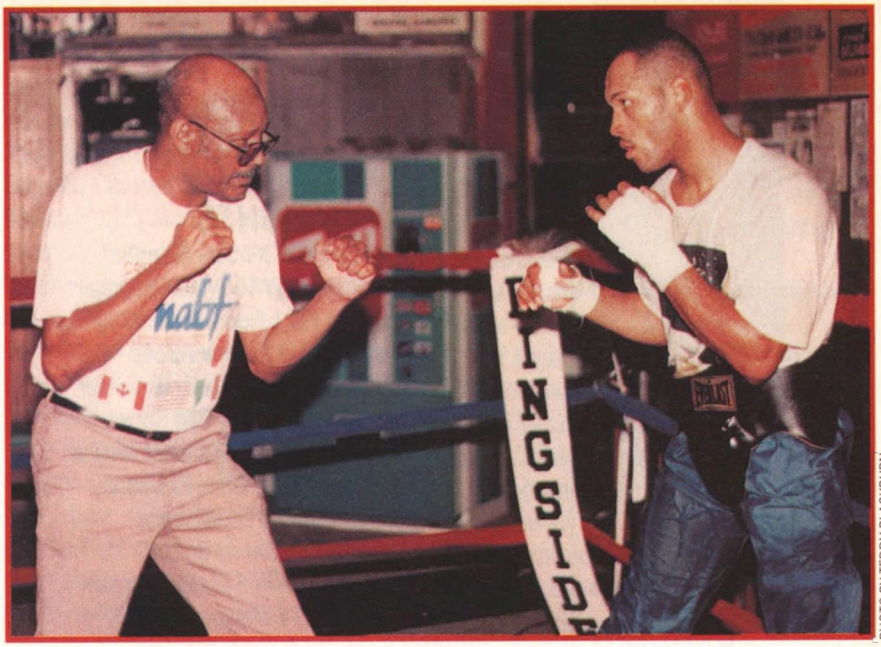



PHOTO BY TEDDY BLACKBURN

***Cokes shows Quincy Taylor some moves in the gym. Cokes, a highly respected trained, helped Taylor capture the WBC middleweight title from Julian Jackson in 1995. Today, Cokes works with heavyweight contender Kirk Johnson and others.***

Cokes also says that his experience as a fighter gives him an advantage in separating the pretenders from the contenders.

"They can't fool me," he said. "Some guys try to fool me, but they can't. I've been on both sides of the street. I used to try and fool my trainers. I know when a guy is putting out the effort to train, to fight, to be the best. I know when a guy wants to be a fighter. I can find that out real quickly. If he's not doing it, you don't waste your time with them. You enjoy working with guys who want to work hard. It makes getting up and going to the gym worthwhile."

Cokes is philosophical in his approach to dealing with fighters. After Johnson was disqualified in his WBA heavyweight title fight against John Ruiz, the trainer said, "Kirk learned that a loss isn't death, a loss is just part of the game."

It took more than a disappointing loss for Cokes to gain some perspective on life. He underwent bypass surgery several years ago, and a month after the Johnson-Ruiz fight, he was hospitalized in Dallas after suffering a mild stroke. Cokes, who was accompanied to Canastota by fiancee Tammy Thomas, appears genuinely healthy and happy. After the stroke, doctors expected him to return to all of his normal activities, which he has.

"It taught me what is really valuable in life," he said. "Things like my health, helping the less fortunate, and the pursuit of God's will. I am doing things a little different and I'll live to be an old man. I'll accomplish a lot of good things while I have the chance."

Many would say that he already has. ■

***Robert Cassidy is a former associate editor of this magazine and a regular contributor.***

PHOTO BY PAT ORR

***Cokes and his fiancee, Tammy Thomas, greet fans lining the parade route in Canastota. It was all part of the IBHOF's annual induction weekend, a three-day extravaganza at which Cokes was reunited with some of his friends and former opponents.***

# SUMMARY

## HEAVYWEIGHTS

Shannon Briggs KO 1 John Sargent
Charles Shufford W 10 Willie Chapman
Andre Purlett KO 1 Ron Guerrero
Faruq Saleem KO 3 Sione Asipeli
Albert Sosnowski KO 4 Jason Brewster
Malcolm Tann W Disq. 1 Cliff Couser
Dennis Bakhtov KO 1 Alexander Mileiko
Richel Hersisia W 12 Sami Elovaara
Michael Sprott KO 1 Colin Kenna
Bob Mirovic KO 4 Danny Buzza
Sherman Williams W 6 Lenzie Morgan
Calvin Brock KO 2 Marcus Rhode
Malik Scott W 8 Carlton Johnson
Konstantin Onofrei KO 4 Zoltan Komlosi
Abraham Okine KO 8 Tony Tubbs
Peter Okello KO 3 Roger Izonritei
Courage Tshabalala W 6 Lenzie Morgan
Kevin Montiy No-Contest 1 Cisse Salif
Tye Fields KO 2 Carlos Barcelete
B.J. Flores KO 1 Cesar Carbajal
Billy Zumbrun KO 1 Bradley Rone
Vonda Ward W 10 Martha Salazar

## CRUISERWEIGHTS

Vassiliy Jirov KO 7 Ernest Mateen
Virgil Hill W 10 Donny Lalonde
Sebastian Rothman W 12 Jorge Castro
Dale Brown W 10 Rich LaMontagne
Fabrice Tiozzo KO 4 Joey DeGrandis
Valery Brudov KO 4 Rene Janvier
Felix Cora Jr. W 8 Alonzo Wright
David Haye KO 1 Greg Scott-Briggs
Duke Tanner W 10 George Blades

## LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Syd Vanderpool KO 9 Demetrius Jenkins
Richard Hall KO 2 Julian Letterlough
Silvio Branco KO 5 Raul Esteban Barreto
Stipe Drews W 12 Kamel Amrane
Zsolt Erdei KO 7 Massimiliano Saiani
Laudelino Barrios KO 5 Fred Moore
Chris Wiggins W 12 Danny Green
Hugo Garay W 10 Sergio Beaz
Yoshinori Nishizawa KO 4 Arama Tabuai
Jesus Ruiz KO 6 Orlando Rivera
Paul Miller KO 8 Brad Reid
Derrick Whitley KO 2 Arturo Rivera
Victor Oganov KO 2 Paul Smallman
Derrick Wilson KO 1 Saak Saakyan

## SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Scott Pemberton W 12 Omar Sheika
Keith Holmes W 10 Anthony Ivory
Jeff Lacy W 12 Richard Grant
Mario Veit W 8 Antonio Brancalion
Kingsley Ikeke KO 3 Willard Lewis
Alberto Colajanni KO 7 Alessandro Filippo
Enrique Ornelas KO 3 Mario Lopez
Librado Andrade KO 6 Eduardo Ayala
Chad Dawson KO 4 Brett Lally

PHOTO BY SCOTT ROMER

***Angel Manfredy hits the deck hard against Courtney Burton***

## MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Fernando Vargas KO 6 Fitz Vanderpool
Howard Eastman KO 8 Hassine Cherifi
Rodney Jones KO 7 Jason Papillion
Jermain Taylor W 12 Freddie Cuevas
Robert Frazier KO 2 Hector Ramirez
Dirk Dzemski W 12 Allan Gray
Larry Marks W 8 Leo Edwards
Felix Sturm KO 5 Roberto Vecchio
Ryan Rhodes KO 5 Alan Gilbert
Yoshihiro Araki W 10 Satoru Suzuki
David Lopez KO 6 Fernando Zuniga
Marcos Primera W 8 Shawn Garnett
Jesse Brinkley KO 2 Joe Garcia
Yuri Tsarenko KO 8 Filipp Bystrikov
Sechew Powell KO 2 Terry Clark
Ismail Arvin W 6 Leon Pearson
Jesus Gonzales KO 1 Sean Wilson

## JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

J.C. Candelo KO 8 Julio Garcia
Bronco McKart KO 1 Angel Beltre
Michele Piccirillo KO 7 Ruben Oliva
Kofi Jantuah KO 7 Robert Kamya
Ray Oliveira W 10 Bryon Mackie
Hector Camacho Jr. W 10 Bryon Mackie
Angel Hernandez W 10 Victor Rosado
Derrell Coley KO 4 Benji Singleton
Adrian Stone KO 4 Farai Musiiwa
Nader Hamdan W 10 Josh Clenshaw
Matt Vanda KO 9 J.J. Corn
Sergej Dzindziruk KO 2 Lorant Szabo
Candy Robertson W 10 Armando Velardez
Ishe Smith W 10 David Estrada
Nurhan Suleymanoglu KO 8 Jose Medina

## WELTERWEIGHTS

Ricardo Mayorga W 12 Vernon Forrest
*(Retains World Title)*
Manuel Gomez KO 1 Jeffrey Hill
Teddy Reid KO 4 Elio Ortiz
Joe Hutchinson W 10 Fernando Mena
Juan Carlos Rubio W 10 Jose Luis Cruz
Francisco Bojado W 10 Lemuel Nelson
David Barnes W 12 Jimmy Vincent
Carlos Quintana W 10 Vinroy Barrett
Joseph Makaringe KO 8 Frans Hantindi
Luca Messi KO 3 Samir Cherrad
Joel Jalil KO 2 Pedro Lopez
Diego Gimenez W 10 Victor Hugo Castro
Tadashi Yuba KO 7 Rex Marzan
Joel Julio KO 1 Carlos Robles
Paul Malignaggi KO 6 Kevin Watts
Dimitry Salita KO 3 John Hoffman
Guillermo Saputo KO 7 Alejandro Jimenez
Farhad Bakirov W 8 Cesar Yarete
Ramon Olivas W 6 Jose Alfred Maturina
Ray Sanchez KO 3 Richie Ueding

## JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Vivian Harris W 12 Souleyman M'Baye
*(Retains WBA Title)*
Zab Judah W 12 DeMarcus Corley
Courtney Burton KO 8 Angel Manfredy
Terrance Cauthen W 12 Ricky Quiles
Billy Irwin KO 1 Mark Riggs
Lovemore Ndou KO 7 Cesar Leiva
Carlos Vilches W Disq. 10 Jorge Luis Noriega
Kengo Nagashima W 10
Kongdhorani Poh Surasak
David Diaz KO 1 Nelson Manchengo
Gary St. Clair KO 4 Untung Ortega
Jorge Paez W 10 Rubin Galvan
Stephen Carr KO 5 Colin Mayisela
Raul Franco KO 8 Miguel Angel Ruiz
Rogelio Castaneda W 10 Craig Weber
Luis Alberto Santiago KO 2 Cesar Esquivel
Mia St. John W 4 Jessica Mohs

## LIGHTWEIGHTS

Aldo Rios KO 1 Hector Fabian Tejeda
Julio Pablo Chacon W 10 Fernando Trejo
Matt Zegan W 12 Roberto Arrieta
Kevin Bennett KO 2 Colin Dunne
Gary Balletto W 10 Luis Lizarraga
Juan Diaz W 10 Francisco Lorenzo
Graham Earl W 12 Bobby Vanzie
Koji Arisawa KO 8 Yasushi Fujiwara
Luis Villalta W 10 Martin O'Malley
Julio Sanchez Leon W 10 Roque Cassiani
Ryuhei Sugita KO 2 Wanchana Chuwatana
Michele Delli Paoli KO 4 Ivan Bustos
Sandro Casamonica W 6 Mircea Lurci
Koba Gogoladze KO 4 Miguel Torrecillas
Carl Johanneson W 6 Reggie Sanders
Marshall Martinez KO 2 Jose Rivera
Americo Santos KO 1 Elias Mingucha

## JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Acelino Freitas KO 12 Jorge Barrios
*(Retains WBA "Super" Title)*
Rocky Juarez KO 10 Antonio Diaz
Orlando Salido KO 3 Freddy Neal
Robbie Peden KO 7 Lamont Pearson
Alex Arthur KO 8 Willie Limond
Jose Gonzalez KO 4 Alberto Bonilla
Isra Girgrah W 8 Trish Hill
Isra Girgrah W 8 Melissa Del Valle

## FEATHERWEIGHTS

Manuel Medina W 12 Scott Harrison
Joan Guzman KO 1 Jorge Monsalvo
Osamu Sato D 10 Yokthai Sithoar
Zahir Raheem KO 1 Augustin Lorenzo
Yober Ortega D 6 Tunkay Kaya
Chris John KO 1 Dae Yung Park
Tiger Smalls W 12 Cristian Favela
Dainoshin Kuma W 10 Naoto Fujiwara
Setsuo Segawa KO 8
Monkongchai Singmanassuk
Ben Dunne KO 1 Mario Lacey
Melissa Yanas KO 1 Tonya Harding

## JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Manny Pacquiao KO 3 Emmanuel Lucero
*(Retains IBF Title)*
Mahyar Monshipour KO 12 Salim Medjkoune
*(Wins WBA Title)*
Nadel Hussein KO 1 Marcello Ackerman
Mauricio Martinez W 12 Hugo Dianzo
Zolani Marali W 12 Pastor Maurin
David Donis W 12 Debind Thapa
Art Simonyan W 12 Carlos Contreras
Edel Ruiz W 12 Ricardo Vargas
Sergio Medina KO 8 Dario Azuaga
Alejandro Barrera W 10 Evangelio Perez

## BANTAMWEIGHTS

Pete Frissina W 12 Jesus Perez
Genaro Garcia KO 8 Julio Cesar Avila
Oscar Andrade KO 6 Hugo Ramirez
Jorge Lacierva KO 3 Javier Ortiz
Ratanachai Vorapin KO 2 Andre Talabessy
Nathan Sting KO 11 Johnny Armour
Hozumi Hasegawa W 12 Sunao Uno
Julio Zarate KO 5 Oscar Arciniega
Daniel Ponce De Leon KO 4 Missael Nunez

## JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Hidenobu Honda KO 9
Yoshinobu Nakamura
Tomas Rojas KO 3 Francisco Paredes

## FLYWEIGHTS

Omar Narvaez D 12 Andrea Sarritzu
Lorenzo Parra KO 2 Jose Luis Graterol
Hiroshi Nakano KO 3 Khannchit Kiatgeija
Vic Darchinyan W 10 Alejandro Montiel
Brian Viloria KO 1 Luis Doria
Jair Jimenez KO 9 William de Souza
Brahim Asloum W 12 Steffen Norskov
Gabriel Elizondo W 8 Juan Carlos Perez

## JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS

Kermin Guardia W 12 Jhon Molina
Khulile Makeba W 8 Zolile Mbityi
Ulises Solis KO 9 Juan Alfonso Keb
Francisco Rosas W 12 Humberto Pool
Masato Hatakeyama KO 8
Yasuhiro Koyama

## STRAWWEIGHTS

Noel Arambulet W 12 Yutaka Niida
*(Retains WBA Title)*
Hiroshi Matsumoto KO 10
Samuransak Singhmanasak
Yukka Gejon KO 3 Cenon de Ocampo

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PRESENTS

The RING

# FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

No, Ricardo Mayorga's rematch victory over Vernon Forrest in July wasn't as impressive or emphatic as his third-round kayo win in January in their first fight. Rare, after all, is the decision win that dazzles us more than the vicious knockout. But, in a way, it meant more. Whereas the first fight illustrated little beyond the fact that Mayorga is a devastating puncher (something we already knew), the rematch proved two very important points: that despite all of his negative health habits, Mayorga could go 12 hard rounds; and that the first fight was no fluke, and therefore neither is Mayorga's reign as the true welterweight champion of the world.

PHOTO BY JED JACOBSOHN/GETTY IMAGES

"El Matador" bull-rushed Forrest from the opening bell and carried the majority of the first six rounds by imposing his physical strength and repeatedly making the former champion stagger about the ring. And when Forrest put together a run over the next few rounds, Mayorga responded by rocking him with a right hand to the chin early in the 10th and then showing fiery aggression in the 11th to put to rest any doubts about his stamina. When the scorecards were totaled, Mayorga had won a majority decision, meaning he has now done twice to Forrest what none of the ex-champ's 34 other opponents could even do once. He has also done twice in 2003 what Forrest only did once during his 2002 Fighter of the Year campaign: earn distinction as the Fighter of the Month.

# Ricardo Mayorga

# RINGSIDE REPORTS

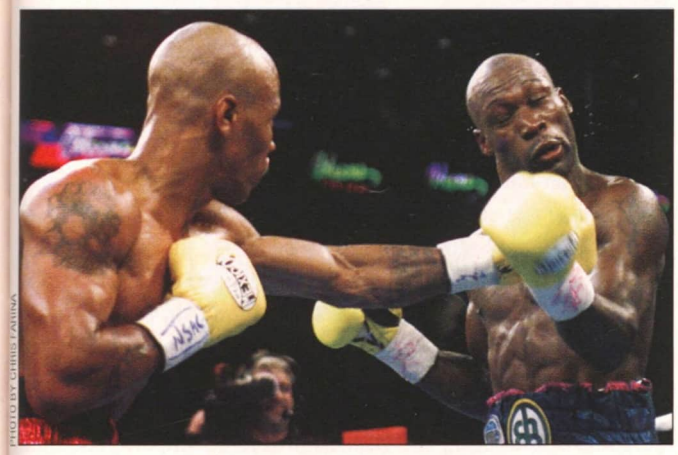

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

*Speedy Judah zaps Corley with a left*

## Zab Judah W 12 DeMarcus Corley

*Las Vegas, Nevada:* This was a fight that started in a bar and ended up in a ring. Unfortunately, the bar brawl was much more memorable. Judah instigated the fight when he took a swing at Corley at the Bernard Hopkins-Morrade Hakkar postfight press conference at Bullies bar/restaurant at the First Union Spectrum in Philadelphia. They settled matters at the Orleans Arena as the co-feature to Ricardo Mayorga-Vernon Forrest II, but it hardly felt like the grudge match it was built up to be.

Making his first ring appearance in almost a year, Judah, 140, Brooklyn, New York, showed some signs of rust against Corley, 139½, Washington, D.C. But his speed and power advantages emerged anyway, most notably when the 25-year-old southpaw nailed fellow lefty Corley, 29, with a left cross to the chin in the third round, forcing the WBO junior welterweight beltholder to try to hang on to Judah in order to stay up. Corley ended up tackling Judah, and referee Joe Cortez (USA) correctly ruled it a knockdown.

In the fourth and fifth rounds, Judah was repeatedly finding "Chop Chop" with quick lefts and proving too fast for the reluctant Corley to catch. Judah, working behind a stiff right jab, wobbled Corley with a straight left late in the fifth. Corley tried loading up with a couple of powershots in return, only to swing and hit nothing.

Judah was in total control, but his punch output was decreasing. This enabled Corley to come back and win the sixth and seventh rounds. As Chop Chop walked in and landed an occasional punch, Judah was hardly throwing any punches of his own, appearing content to showboat and show off his defensive reflexes. Surely this had something to do with the fact that Judah had injured his left hand in the third round, but it was discouraging to see him hardly using his right hand either.

In the eighth round, though, "Super Judah" began finding his jab again, popping Corley, 28-2-1 (16), with ease. Judah then eased off again in the ninth and 10th, only to come through with decent rounds in the 11th and 12th when his lead had nearly disappeared.

Judah, 29-1 (21) with 1 no-contest, had clearly won the fight, but he failed to win over the crowd of 6,272. After judges Duane Ford (USA) and Chuck Giampa (USA) each ruled in favor of Judah by 115-112 scores (the same as THE RING) and judge Michael Pernick (USA) somehow scored it 115-112 for Corley, Judah climbed the ropes in one corner of the ring and was lustily booed by the crowd.

"I felt a little rusty," said Judah. "But I think I had a great fight. Corley kept his composure the whole fight, so I took my time and picked my shots. I could see everything he was throwing at me. It's good to be back after a year."

Television: HBO

Promoter: Don King Productions

(7-12-03)

*Joseph Santoliquito*

## Vivian Harris W 12 Souleymane M'Baye

*Las Vegas, Nevada:* The 28-year-old M'Baye was the great mystery man entering his bout with Harris that was part of the Ricardo Mayorga-Vernon Forrest II undercard at the Orleans Arena. Few Americans really knew much about M'Baye, except that he hailed from Levallois-Perret, France, and was undefeated. Harris, on the other hand, is well-known to boxing fans, having fought on ESPN2 many times and having won the de-valued WBA super lightweight belt with a surprising second-round blowout of Diobelys Hurtado in October 2002. This was Harris' first defense of the title, and, aside from the fact that it wasn't televised in the United States, it was a successful one.

It looked as if M'Baye the mystery man would fall early, when Harris, 139½, Brooklyn, New York, dropped him with a left jab that caught him on the chin. M'Baye, 140, remained on the receiving end until the fourth round, when he finally committed to throwing some punches.

M'Baye was effective at close range, hammering "Vicious Vivian's" body and winning the majority of the middle rounds. In the sixth, M'Baye rocked Harris, 25, slightly with a straight right, and then scored again later in the round with a left hook. Harris' left eye began to swell in the seventh, as M'Baye kept landing his

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

*Harris' right hand rocks M'Baye*

right. A fierce overhand right had Harris backpedaling late in the seventh.

But Harris, sensing the fight slipping from his grasp, increased the pressure on M'Baye in the final three rounds and picked up the points he needed. He scored with counter right hands and was simply more active. M'Baye, his energy depleted by his mid-rounds effort to get back into the fight, was able to do little down the stretch. Harris won the 10th with counter right hands, and then he relied on his left in the final two rounds, and M'Baye had no answers. In the 12th, Harris, 23-1-1 (16), put together a nice left-hook, right-uppercut combination that staggered M'Baye, 27-1 (18).

Judge Patricia Jarman-Manning (USA) had Harris winning by a 117-110 margin, while judges Dave Moretti (USA) and Paul Thomas (USA) each scored the fight 116-111 for Harris, as did THE RING. The referee was Kenny Bayless (USA).

Promoter: Don King Productions

(7-12-03)

*Joseph Santoliquito*

## Eric Morel W 12 Isidro Garcia

*Bayamon, Puerto Rico:* It was not unbeaten WBA flyweight titlist Morel's sharpest performance, but that worked out just fine for the 15,000-plus fans at Ruben Rodriguez Coliseum, who were treated to an entertaining two-way tussle in what was expected to be a relatively easy defense against fringe contender Garcia. In by far the best action fight on an otherwise mediocre pay-per-view show headlined by Miguel Cotto's easy second-round kayo of Rocky Martinez, Morel prevailed via unanimous decision to record his fifth title defense of a three-year reign.

Using a combination of defense-conscious boxing and crowd-pleasing slugging, much like against Denkaosaen Kaowichit in his previous outing, Morel was the clear winner, but it was more competitive than the margins of 115-111 (from both Gonsalvo Rivera and Samuel Conde) and 116-110 (from Gustavo Padilla) made it seem. Garcia lost points for accidental and not overly damaging low blows in both the fifth and eighth rounds, without which the challenger would have been very much in the hunt in the last few rounds.

PHOTO BY CHRIS FARINA

***Morel celebrates after making his first title defense in Puerto Rico***

Based on his previous fight, a quit-job technical draw with Mauricio Pastrana nearly 12 months earlier, it seemed that former WBO beltholder Garcia was fading fast, despite being only 27 years old. But he gave a determined performance against the Puerto Rican-born Morel, 112, Madison, Wisconsin, doing what was necessary to pressure the four-inches-taller titleholder. Morel jabbed and circled effectively early, but when his concentration waned, Garcia, 111, Los Angeles, California, would barrel inside and initiate exchanges. They sometimes didn't turn out well for the challenger, however, as typified by an excellent counter right uppercut by Morel in the third.

Garcia struggled to get past the Morel's jab in the fourth, and the point deduction in the fifth from referee Roberto Ramirez (Puerto Rico) didn't help his title aspirations. When he lost another point in the eighth, he cranked up the heat and had Morel pinned on the ropes at the bell, earning a 9-9 round. But the gap on the scorecards was becoming hard to close, even though the physical gap was getting easier to close as Morel's jab tapered off. The 11th was one of the challenger's best rounds, but Morel came back to outbrawl Garcia, 22-3-2 (7), in a furiously paced 12th.

"This was one of my toughest fights," admitted Morel, 33-0 (18). The 27-year-old victor called out IBF counterpart Irene Pacheco afterward, but said he might move up in weight if that bout for THE RING'S vacant flyweight title can't be made.

Television: ESPN Pay-Per-View

Promoter: Top Rank

(6-28-03)

## Joe Calzaghe KO 2 Byron Mitchell

*Cardiff, Wales:* Given the narrow split decision defeat suffered by Mitchell against IBF titleholder Sven Ottke in March, conclusions were bound to be drawn from this bout about the identity of the world's supreme super middleweight. As it turned out, British referee Dave Parris' intervention was viewed by some as premature and thus left a hint of doubt. But one thing that wasn't in doubt was Calzaghe's character. Floored for the first time in his life and clearly in shock, he got back up and decked Mitchell, 167, Orlando, Florida, via Ozark, Alabama, before his frenzied follow-up assault persuaded Parris to end it. The 6,000 in attendance at the Cardiff International Arena were too jubilant to be considered a legitimate jury.

If the worldwide jury is still out on the timing of the stoppage, it would be a shame to let it overshadow this wild affair. The 31-year-old Calzaghe, 168, Newbridge, Wales, answered serious questions in emphatic fashion. With the right hand that he landed squarely on Calzaghe's jaw early in the second round, Mitchell, 29, had every right to believe he had the beating of his man. But Calzaghe came back like a wounded lion and did not let up until Mitchell was considered to be in too much trouble to be allowed

*Ref Parris calls the controversial halt*

to continue. The American threw the last punch, yes, but he did not throw much else while Calzaghe was threatening to tear his head off with a battery of blows. Attitude toward adversity is what ultimately invested conclusiveness to this compelling, albeit curtailed, confrontation.

Calzaghe had been frustrated by the withdrawal of his original opponent, William Joppy, and then by Mitchell's request—granted by TV company Showtime—for two more weeks to prepare. But he vowed to take out his frustration on Mitchell in the ring. There were signs in the opening round, however, that it wouldn't be easy. Mitchell remained composed under Calzaghe's attack, blocking many of the fast, powerful punches streaming his way. By the start of the second, he was in close enough range to bang the Welshman's body and hurt him, setting up the solid right cross that spun Calzaghe's head violently to his right as he fell to the floor. Never before, in the amateurs or pros or even in the gym, had Calzaghe been put down, and his reaction was exemplary.

"I was shocked, but I got up and showed what I'm made of," he said.

Mitchell moved in to capitalize, but Calzaghe made it a two-way exchange, and a wicked left cross put Mitchell on the canvas. He rose quickly, but his head remained unclear and Calzaghe continued to let his fists fly as the round ticked down. The referee had a long, hard look, the wobbly Mitchell, 25-3-1 (18), was not firing back, and just as he did, Parris was already stepping in at the 2:36 mark. Mitchell had left a window for the referee to peer through, and he did.

"I was all over him at that point and I don't think the referee had any alternative," said Calzaghe, 36-0 (29), who is desperate to secure a fight with world middleweight champion Bernard Hopkins to finally remove all doubt about his credentials. Hopkins, however, is continuing to be an infuriating negotiator, and the proposed matchup looks unlikely to happen this year.

Promoter: Frank Warren

(6-28-03)

*Brian Doogan*

## Masamori Tokuyama W 12 Katsushige Kawashima

*Yokohama, Japan:* Slick-punching Tokuyama, 115, kept the WBC super fly belt for the seventh time as he finely outjabbed game Japanese challenger Kawashima, 115, in the early rounds and, after sustaining a left hand injury in the sixth, withstood the challenger's retaliation in the later rounds to narrowly pull out the win. Anek Hongtongkam (Thailand) and Hisatoshi Miyazaki (Japan) both scored it 116-112, and Ken Morita (Japan) had it 116-114, all for the defending titlist.

Tokuyama, 28, made good use of his sharp left jab and shifty footwork over the first half of the fight, arguably sweeping the first five rounds. It was shaping up as a one-sided affair for the Korean, but the tide turned almost immediately when he stopped jabbing in the sixth after fracturing his left hand. Kawashima, 23-3 (16), a rugged puncher, occasionally landed big shots the rest of the way, while Tokuyama, 29-2-1 (8), remained competitive by using hit-and-run and hit-and-grab tactics. Though the 28-year-old challenger clearly dominated the last two sessions, that wasn't enough to overcome his early deficit on points.

The referee was Nobuaki Uratani (Japan).

Promoter: Ohashi Promotions

(6-23-03)

*Joe Koizumi*

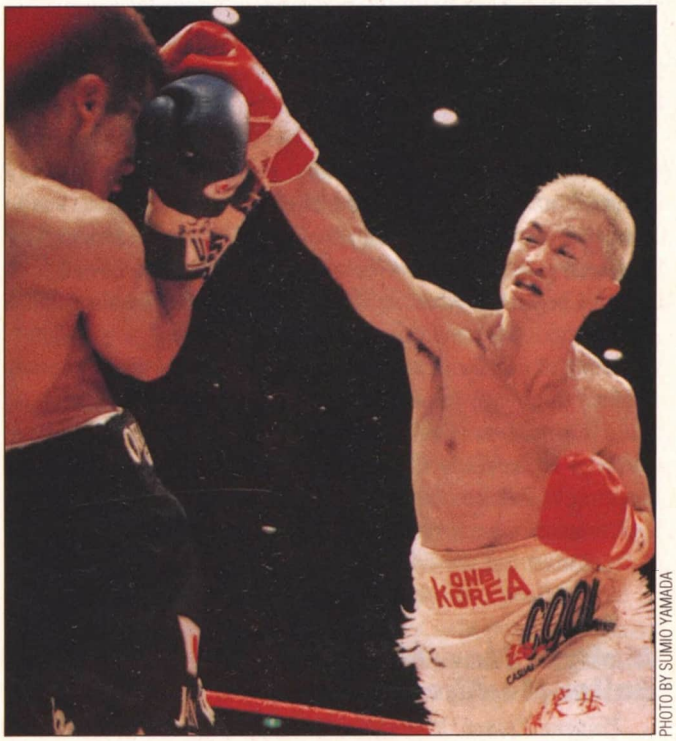


PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

*Tokuyama reaches Kawashima with a right*

## Jose Antonio Aguirre KO 12 Keitaro Hoshino

*Yokohama, Japan:* Mexican Aguirre, 105, retained the WBC strawweight throne for the seventh time, but it wasn't easy. He weathered some tough moments in the middle rounds and finally dropped ex-WBA ruler Hoshino, 105, with a looping left hook before prompting the referee's intervention with his furious follow-up at 2:15 of the 12th and final session.

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

*Aguirre raises his arms as the fight is stopped in the 12th*

It was a hard-fought battle before the knockout came. Aguirre, 30-1-1 (19), was aggressive all the way, but not very precise. Hoshino, the more skillful boxer-puncher, averted Aguirre's big punches and connected with less powerful but more accurate combinations. The 33-year-old Japanese challenger had Aguirre at bay in the 10th, but the 27-year-old beltholder took back the initiative in the 11th. Aguirre's sweeping left hook in the final canto was so effective that Hoshino fell as if all the energy had been instantly sapped from his body. He could barely stand up to go on, but he was allowed to anyway, until referee Bruce McTavish (New Zealand) recognized how helpless he looked and halted it as Aguirre began to follow up. After the stoppage, Hoshino, 23-10 (6), collapsed for minutes.

Many of the rounds were difficult to score, and the judges saw it rather differently through 11 rounds. Oren Shellenberger (USA) and Hubert Minn (USA) both had it 106-103 for Aguirre, and Daniel Van de Wiele (Belgium) scored it 106-105 for Hoshino, the same as THE RING's tally.

Promoter: Ohashi Promotions

(6-23-03)

*Joe Koizumi*

## Mahyar Monshipour KO 12 Salim Medjkoune

*Poitiers, France:* When your father is a former deputy chief of police of Tehran, you perhaps ought to know how to put an assailant away. Monshipour, 122, Poitiers, France, via Tehran, Iran, demonstrated this quality in fine style with a sensational right cross with a minute and 20 seconds remaining in the fight to claim the WBA super bantamweight title from Medjkoune, 121½, Clermont-Ferrand, France, before a crowd of 5,000 at the Parc du Futuroscope. It was Medjkoune's second defense.

The French titleholder had won the belt by unanimous decision in an upset of Japan's Osamu Sato last October, and in his hometown in April he had retained the title against Vincenzo Gigliotti of Italy, again winning on points. But the points decision here would have gone to Monshipour, who took the fight to Medjkoune from the opening bell and amassed a lead on two cards (the third had the bout even) that was rendered academic by the potent application in the final round of his right hand. It was a surprise result, but the new titleholder appears to be capable of a long reign.

He held the European title going into the bout, but many doubted his ability to handle the 31-year-old southpaw who had climbed to the third-ranked contender behind champion Paulie Ayala in THE RING's ratings. From the opening bell, Monshipour made nonsense of this perception, asserting himself as the aggressor and landing combinations that left Medjkoune struggling to devise a strategy to counteract his 28-year-old challenger's effectiveness. He had his moments, but they were eclipsed by Monshipour's mastery of the art of forcing a fight.

Ultimately, he forced the stoppage. Medjkoune left himself open and Monshipour, 23-2-2 (14), seized his moment of ascendancy with a sudden and climactic shot midway through the 12th. Referee Daniel Talon (France) tolled the 10-count, as Medjkoune, 41-4-1 (21), hardly moved until several minutes had passed.

Promoter: AB Stars Productions

(7-4-03)

*Brian Doogan*

PHOTO BY SUMIO YAMADA

*Medjkoune (left) and Monshipour let their hands go*

## Noel Arambulet W 12 Yutaka Niida

*Yokohama, Japan:* Venezuelan Arambulet, 105, barely retained the WBA minimumweight belt against previously unbeaten ex-WBA king Niida, 104½, Japan, eking out a split verdict over 12 close rounds. Arambulet kept moving around all night and cleverly averted Niida's powerful but sporadic shots, making for a boring fight and spoiling the challenger's first bout after a nearly two-year "retirement."

The Venezuelan made optimum use of his shifty footwork, while Niida kept going forward, throwing solid but inaccurate shots at his elusive target. In the 12th and final session, Niida desperately attacked the fading titleholder, but it wasn't enough to overcome the lead Arambulet had built.

Niida, who in October '01 retired undefeated at the age of 23—to heavy criticism—shortly after beating Chana Porpaoin for the title, got off to a strong start as he connected with his trademark left hooks and solid rights to the cautious titlist in the opening canto. Arambulet, 29, became wary of his foe's power and kept circling throughout the second round, choosing not to mix it up with the hard-hitting youngster. But the Venezuelan began to solve his opponent from the third round on, as he started peppering the onrushing Niida with light but busy combinations. Arambulet looked to be in command in the third through sixth rounds with his busier combos.

Niida, 24, started using sharp, stinging lefts to catch the fancy footworker and dominate the seventh. Using furious rallies in the eighth, he managed to pin Arambulet to the ropes and win that round as well.

But the battle turned in the defending titlist's favor again in the ninth. Arambulet moved to-and-fro to throw off Niida and nullify his retaliations, allowing the Venezuelan to take the ninth through 11th rounds. Niida seemed aware that he was trailing on points entering the final round, so he furiously went looking for a knockout with his fierce combinations. But the knockout didn't come, and while Henk Meijers (Holland) scored 116-114 for Niida, both Rodolfo Maldonado (Panama) and Wansoo Yuh (Korea) saw it 115-114 for Arambulet. The referee was Armando Garcia (USA).

Niida, 14-1-3 (7), may deserve a rematch, but he had better fight some tune-up bouts before he meets such a crafty fighter as Arambulet, 20-2-1 (10) with 1 no-contest, again.

Promoter: Yokohama Hikari Promotions
(7-12-03)
*Joe Koizumi*

## Rocky Juarez KO 10 Antonio Diaz

*Houston, Texas:* Juarez made up for nine lackluster rounds of boxing by detonating a picture-perfect left hook that separated "Chelo" Diaz from his senses at 1:33 of the 10th and final round. The spectacular finishing punch ignited a collective "ooh" from the sold-out crowd of 3,500 at the Reliant Center and created an instant frontrunner for Knockout of the Year honors.

It was a scrappy affair in which many of the rounds were close. At least two members of the ringside press had Diaz narrowly ahead on points going into the 10th round. But as it turned out, it was Diaz who needed a last-round knockout to win the fight, as Juarez was ahead by two, five, and seven points on the judges' scorecards.

Typically a slow starter, Juarez, 127½, boxed from a distance on even terms for the first two rounds as he felt the New York-based Dominican out. The local favorite began stepping up the tempo in the middle rounds as he applied his signature controlled pressure while measuring Diaz, 128, for right hands and left hooks. Diaz, though, made himself a frustratingly elusive target with jitterbugging head movement that had Juarez catching air with most of his power punches.

As the fight progressed into the later rounds, Juarez, 23, intensified his attack by increasing his punch output and forcing Diaz to engage in trench warfare. But Diaz, 29, met Juarez' charges with vengeance and aplomb, driving Juarez back with looping rights he slammed over the top in doubles and triples before raking in left hooks to the torso that effectively neutralized Juarez' own vaunted body assault.

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

***Unbeaten Juarez steps in with a right hand***

Although the fighters traded fairly evenly throughout the bout, there was a significant power differential between the two. While Diaz' powerpunches bounced harmlessly off Juarez' head, Juarez visibly rocked Diaz several times.

"He landed some good shots, but never hurt me," Juarez said. "I never want to get hit in the ring, but I knew this time I had to taste some leather. He was my toughest fight to date."

In the ninth round, Diaz connected with a right to the head as Juarez' right foot skidded off a wet patch in Diaz' corner, and Juarez found himself briefly on the canvas. Fortunately for Juarez, referee Robert Gonzalez (USA) ruled it a slip, keeping his record of never being knocked down in 162 amateur and 17 professional fights intact. Juarez proceeded to dominate the rest of the round, hurting Diaz with an assortment of hooks and crosses, but Diaz stubbornly refused to fall.

Diaz was continuing to trade with Juarez in the 10th when, midway through the round, Juarez shot out a straight right that grazed Diaz on the neck and immediately curled in a left hook with maximum pivot and thrust. The punch exploded on Diaz' jawbone, violently snapping his head sideways and rendering him limp and unconscious before he hit the ground.

"When I hit him, I knew it was a very solid punch and I knew he was going to go down," Juarez, 17-0 (13), said. "And when I saw the way he landed, I knew he wasn't going to get up. That was the best timing that I've had with my left hook."

It was the 2000 Olympic silver medalist's fourth consecutive knockout. Juarez' trainer, Ray Ontiveros, mentioned two-division former titleholder Danny Romero as a possible next opponent.

"Rocky is the best prospect right now," said Diaz, 24-4 (11), after the bout. "I think after two or three more fights, he'll win a title."

Television: Showtime
Promoter: Main Events
(7-19-03)
*Peter Lim* ■

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# New Face

*(Continued from page 20)*

ing Brown for six years. "We want to get more rounds in and we want Rasheem to box more. We want him to put more speed on his punches, rather than sitting on his shots and whacking guys out. He's an avid hard worker, and not the kind of guy you have to follow around. He wears 16-ounce gloves, and he still drops guys. He's just naturally powerful.

"Rasheem has great hand speed, but guys are standing in front of him, so he doesn't get a chance to show that. At a higher level, that will come out. We'd like to see Rasheem put together more combinations. As the competition improves, Rasheem will get to show that. He has world-class power. He'll be a champion by the end of 2004, as long as he keeps on working. Rasheem is a real blessing."

Outside of the ring, Brown realizes just how fortunate he is. When he was two, the Reed family, Geraldine and Joe, took in Brown and his older brother, Ramon, as foster children. Today, Brown calls them Mom and Dad. His biological parents are both deceased. His biological mother, Romona, battled a substance abuse problem throughout her adult years, and Brown never knew his biological father.

Brown was too young to remember the day when he and his brother were taken away from their mother, but he does recall the times he used to visit Romona until he was six.

"The way I see it, the Reed family raised me. If it wasn't for the Reed family, I wouldn't be where I am right now," Brown said. "A lot of times things don't work out with families, so I owe a lot to the Reed family. I'm very blessed with them and I've always appreciated them."

As Brown got older, he and Romona drifted farther apart. Brown no longer thought about what Romona was doing, or where her life was headed. He was a kid whose focus was on school work, going to wrestling and cross-country practice, and scoping teenage girls.

Into his mid-20s, Brown lost track of Romona, until one day, Brown had heard that Romona was on a breathing machine in the ICU at a local hospital. By then, age and maturity had softened his stance toward her. She passed away in 2001. A month later, Brown found out his biological father died.

"I didn't have any resentment as a kid toward either of them," Brown said, "but if they weren't there when I was a kid, why try and come back into my life later? That's the attitude that I had. I closed the door on them, and that's something I regret. When I decided to open the door, it was too late. I went to the hospital and saw my mom there in a coma. She couldn't hear me or talk to me, but I'd like to think that she knew I was there in the end. I guess it's important for me to know I was there in the end, but not having her be a part of my life is something I'll regret. It's something I'll always regret."

Now Brown has children of his own, a four-year old daughter, Kyra, and one-year-old son, Rasheem Jr. But boxing is a priority that sometimes takes the doting father away from his kids, and it's becoming more and more of a priority as his career progresses. As of press time, Brown was being pursued by Main Events. Carl Moretti, vice president of Main Events, has attended a number of Brown's fights, including his first-round knockout of Joshua Onyango on the undercard of the third Arturo Gatti-Micky Ward fight, in Atlantic City on June 7.

"Rasheem is obviously a terrific puncher and an action fighter," Moretti said. "Rasheem needs some rounds, but he seems to be a level-headed kid with a good sense of what he wants. Rasheem can make 154 pounds with no problem, and eventually go to middleweight. He can go a long way. I'd just like to see him step up the quality of opposition a little more. Hopefully, that's where we can come in. He seems like a logical fighter we can give national exposure."

With all of the success Brown is enjoying, he feels there will come a time when he's able to give back to those who have given so much to him—like the Reeds—and to achieve excellence in remembrance of Devon Chavarria, a young fighter Brown was close to but was killed at 19 while breaking up a fight.

"I made a promise to myself that I'd win a world title for Devon," Brown said, "and that if I won a world title, I'd give the Reeds anything they want. I'd buy them a house, anything they want."

Though Brown hardly resembles the undersized kid the Reeds raised, the one thing that hasn't changed since those childhood days—the punch—is making it possible for him to deliver on those promises. ■

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# Alphabet Ratings

**The Rankings of Boxing's Three International Governing Bodies**

## WBA RATINGS
*(Ratings as of June 2003)*

### HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champ: Roy Jones (USA)
1. Vacant
2. David Tua (NZ)
3. Hasim Rahman (USA)
4. John Ruiz (USA)
5. Mike Tyson (USA)
6. Vitali Klitschko (UKR)
7. Evander Holyfield (USA)
8. Fres Oquendo (PR)
9. Kirk Johnson (CAN)
10. Wladimir Klitschko (UKR)
11. Lamon Brewster (USA)
12. Joe Mesi (USA)

### CRUISERWEIGHTS
Champ: Jean Marc Mormeck (FRA)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Virgil Hill (USA)
4. O'Neil Bell (USA)
5. Luis Pineda (PAN)
6. Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)
7. Valery Brudov (RUS)
8. Daniel Rowsell (AUSTRL)
9. Alexander Gurov (UKR)
10. Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)
11. Vincenzo Cantatore (ITA)
12. Alexander Petkovic (GER)

### LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champ: Mehdi Sahnoune (FRA)
1. Vacant
2. Lou Del Valle (USA)
3. Julio Gonzalez (USA)
4. Manuel Siaca (PR)
5. Bruno Girard (FRA)
6. David Telesco (USA)
7. Thomas Hansvoll (NOR)
8. George Jones (USA)
9. Paul Briggs (AUSTRL)
10. Montell Griffin (USA)
11. Thomas Ulrich (GER)
12. Stipe Drews (CRO)

### SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Unified Champ: Sven Ottke (GER)
1. Antwun Echols (USA)
2. Anthony Mundine (AUSTRL)
3. Mads Larsen (DEN)
4. Mikkel Kessler (DEN)
5. Eric Lucas (CAN)
6. Danilo Haussler (GER)
7. Byron Mitchell (USA)
8. Thomas Tate (USA)
9. Brian Magee (GB)
10. Francisco Mora (ARG)
11. Charles Brewer (USA)
12. Syd Vanderpool (CAN)

### MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Unified Champ: Bernard Hopkins (USA)
Champ: William Joppy (USA)
1. Vacant
2. Bert Schenk (GER)
3. Robert Allen (USA)
4. Maselino Masoe (AUSTRL)
5. Howard Eastman (GB)
6. Evans Ashira (DEN)
7. Hassine Cherifi (FRA)
8. Kingsley Ikeke (NIG)
9. Jermain Taylor (USA)
10. Satoru Suzuki (JAP)
11. Wayne Alexander (GB)
12. Derrell Coley (USA)

### SUPER WELTERWEIGHTS
Unified Champ: Oscar De La Hoya (USA)
Champ: Alejandro T. Garcia (MEX)
1. Vacant
2. Rhoshii Wells (USA)
3. Travis Simms (USA)
4. Mamadou Thiam (FRA)
5. Shane Mosley (USA)
6. Santiago Samaniego (PAN)
7. Akira Ohigashi (JAP)
8. J.C. Candelo (COL)
9. Roman Karmazin (RUS)
10. Kassim Ouma (GHA)
11. Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)
12. Michael Rask (DEN)

### WELTERWEIGHTS
Unified Champ: Ricardo Mayorga (CR)
1. Vacant
2. Thomas Damgaard (DEN)
3. Michael Trabant (GER)
4. Jose Rivera (USA)
5. Vernon Forrest (USA)
6. Carlos Baldomir (ARG)
7. Felix Flores (PR)
8. James Hare (GB)
9. Kermit Cintron (PR)
10. Andrew Lewis (GUY)
11. Farhad Bakirov (UZB)
12. Elio Ortiz (VEN)

### SUPER LIGHTWEIGHTS
Unified Champ: Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)
Champ: Vivian Harris (GUY)
1. Souleyman M'Baye (FRA)
2. Sharmba Mitchell (USA)
3. Ricky Hatton (GB)
4. Oktay Urkal (TUR)
5. Arturo Gatti (USA)
6. Diobelys Hurtado (CUB)
7. Gianluca Branco (ITA)
8. Zab Judah (USA)
9. Miguel Cotto (PR)
10. Randall Bailey (USA)
11. Masakazu Satake (JAP)
12. Andreas Kotelnik (GER)

### LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champ: Leonard Dorin (CAN)
1. Miguel Callist (PAN)
2. Julien Lorcy (FRA)
3. Lakva Sim (MON)
4. Juan Lazcano (USA)
5. Javier Jauregui (MEX)
6. Steve Johnston (USA)
7. Phillip Ndou (SA)
8. Prawet Singwangcha (THAI)
9. Angel Manfredy (USA)
10. Michael Clark (USA)
11. Julio Diaz (MEX)
12. Billy Irwin (CAN)

### SUPER FEATHERWEIGHTS
Unified Champ: Acelino Freitas (BRA)
Champ: Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)
1. Joel Casamayor (CUB)
2. Jorge Barrios (ARG)
3. Julio Pablo Chacon (ARG)
4. Diego Corrales (USA)
5. Jesus Chavez (MEX)
6. Randy Suico (PHIL)
7. Steve Forbes (USA)
8. Nobuhito Honmo (JAP)
9. Nate Campbell (USA)
10. Cassius Baloyi (SA)
11. Alex Arthur (GB)
12. Mike Anchondo (USA)

### FEATHERWEIGHTS
Champ: Derrick Gainer (USA)
1. Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)
2. Yoddamrong Sithyodthong (THAI)
3. Injin Chi (KOR)
4. Naseem Hamed (GB)
5. Chris John (IND)
6. Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)
7. Michael Brodie (GB)
8. Spend Abazi (DEN)
9. Victor Polo (COL)
10. Oscar Leon (COL)
11. William Abelyan (ARM)
12. Zahir Raheem (USA)

### SUPER BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champ: Salim Medjkoune (FRA)
1. Vacant
2. Somsak Sithchachawan (THAI)
3. Kozo Ishii (JAP)
4. Osamu Sato (JAP)
5. Yober Ortega (VEN)
6. Jose Rojas (VEN)
7. Paulie Ayala (USA)
8. Nadel Hussein (AUSTRL)
9. Johnny Armour (GB)
10. Napapol Kiattisachokchai (THAI)
11. Mahyar Monshipour (FRA)
12. Emmanuel Lucero (MEX)

### BANTAMWEIGHTS
Champ: Johnny Bredahl (DEN)
1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Tim Austin (USA)
4. Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)
5. Hideki Todaka (JAP)
6. Leo Gamez (VEN)
7. Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)
8. Poongsawat Krachingdaen (THAI)
9. Diego Morales (MEX)
10. Nobuaki Naka (JAP)
11. Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)
12. Moises Castro (NIC)

### SUPER FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Alexander Munoz (VEN)
1. Vacant
2. Sornpichai Pisnurachank (THAI)
3. Rogelio Galicia (PHIL)
4. Kohei Matsuura (JAP)
5. Luis Bolano (COL)
6. Katsushige Kawashima (JAP)
7. Jose Navarro (USA)
8. Saen Sor Ploenchit (THAI)
9. Hideyasu Ishihara (JAP)
10. Mauricio Pastrana (COL)
11. Gabula Vabaza (SA)
12. Martin Castillo (MEX)

### FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Eric Morel (USA)
1. Lorenzo Parra (VEN)
2. Takefumi Sakata (JAP)
3. Hussein Hussein (AUSTRL)
4. Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)
5. Damaen Kelly (GB)
6. Brahim Asloum (FRA)
7. Mzukisi Sikali (SA)
8. Tomas Rojas (MEX)
9. Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)
10. Hidenobu Honda (JAP)
11. Brian Viloria (USA)
12. Isidro Garcia (MEX)

### LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS
Champ: Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)
1. Vacant
2. Bebis Mendoza (COL)
3. Pichit C. Siriwat (THAI)
4. Edgar Velasquez (VEN)
5. Marvin Tampos (PHIL)
6. Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)
7. Eric Ortiz (MEX)
8. Mhikiza Myekeni (SA)
9. Rodel Mayol (PHIL)
10. Tatsuo Kayashida (JAP)
11. Alex Sanchez (PR)
12. Shingo Yamaguchi (JAP)

### MINIMUMWEIGHTS
Champ: Noel Arambulet (VEN)
1. Chana Porpaoin (THAI)
2. Joma Gamboa (PHIL)
3. Daniel Reyes (COL)
4. Jaewon Kim (KOR)
5. Sithembele Kibiti (SA)
6. Genki Ohnaka (JAP)
7. Yutaka Niida (JAP)
8. Eriberto Gijon (PHIL)
9. Pornsawan Pramuk (THAI)
10. Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)
11. Roberto Leyva (MEX)
12. Isaac Bustos (MEX)

## WBC RATINGS
*(Ratings as of June 2003)*

### HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champ: Lennox Lewis (GB)
1. Hasim Rahman (USA)
2. Vitali Klitschko (UKR)
3. Mike Tyson (USA)
4. Evander Holyfield (USA)
5. David Tua (NZ)
6. Lamon Brewster (USA)
7. John Ruiz (USA)
8. Kirk Johnson (CAN)
9. Sinan Samil San (TUR)
10. Oliver McCall (USA)
11. Joe Mesi (USA)
12. Fres Oquendo (USA)
13. Wladimir Klitschko (UKR)
14. Jameel McCline (USA)
15. Danny Williams (GB)
16. Dominick Guinn (USA)
17. Henry Akinwande (NIG)
18. Faruq Saleem (USA)
19. Eliecer Castillo (CUB)
20. Jeremy Williams (USA)
21. Juan Carlos Gomez (CUB)
22. Lou Savarese (USA)
23. Lance Whitaker (USA)
24. Larry Donald (USA)
25. Saul Montana (MEX)
26. Dimitry Bakhtov (KAZ)
27. Clifford Etienne (USA)
28. DaVarryl Williamson (USA)
29. Cedric Boswell (USA)
30. Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)

### CRUISERWEIGHTS
Champ: Wayne Braithwaite (GUY)
1. O'Neil Bell (USA)
2. Vincenzo Cantatore (ITA)
3. Louis Azille (DR)
4. Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)
5. Pietro Aurino (ITA)
6. Luis Andres Pineda (PAN)
7. Alexander Petkovic (GER)
8. Rudiger May (GER)
9. Sebastiaan Rothman (SA)
10. Richard LaMontagne (USA)
11. Pavel Melkomian (RUS)
12. Rydell Booker (USA)
13. Ravea Springs (USA)
14. Carlos Cruzat (CHI)
15. Krysztov Wlodarczyk (POL)
16. Alexander Gurov (UKR)
17. Glen Kelly (AUSTRL)
18. Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)
19. Turan Bagci (TUR)
20. Dale Brown (CAN)
21. Alain Simon (FRA)
22. Ezra Sellers (USA)
23. Felix Cora (USA)
24. Daniel Rowsell (AUSTRL)
25. Michael Simms (USA)
26. Mark Hobson (GB)
27. Kelvin Davis (USA)
28. Jorge Kahwagi (MEX)
29. Vincenzo Rossitto (ITA)
30. Valery Brudov (RUS)

### LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS
Champ: Antonio Tarver (USA)
1. Clinton Woods (GB)
2. Paul Briggs (AUSTRL)
3. Thomas Ulrich (GER)
4. Julio Gonzalez (USA)
5. Montell Griffin (USA)
6. Stipe Drews (CRO)
7. Kamel Amrane (FRA)
8. Jorge Castro (ARG)
9. Tomasz Adamek (POL)
10. Elvir Muriqi (ALB)
11. George Jones (USA)
12. Glencoffe Johnson (USA)
13. Eric Harding (USA)
14. Darren Corbett (IRE)
15. Orlando Rivera (PR)
16. Derrick Harmon (USA)
17. Robert Stieglitz (GER)
18. Tony Oakey (GB)
19. Michael Rush (USA)
20. Alejandro Lakatus (ROM)
21. Laudelino Barros (BRA)
22. Elvis Michailenko (LAT)
23. Zsolt Erdei (HUN)
24. Hugo Garay (ARG)
25. Madjid Zaim (FRA)
26. Silvio Branco (ITA)
27. Donnell Wiggins (USA)
28. Rodney Toney (USA)
29. Ron Simms (USA)
30. Jackson Chanet (FRA)

### SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champ: Markus Beyer (GER)
1. Eric Lucas (CAN)
2. Danilo Haussler (GER)
3. Mikkel Kessler (DEN)
4. Antwun Echols (USA)
5. Mads Larsen (DEN)
6. Syd Vanderpool (CAN)
7. Yoshinori Nishizawa (JAP)
8. Charles Brewer (USA)
9. Danny Green (AUSTRL)
10. Jeff Lacy (USA)
11. Henry Porras (CR)
12. Brian Magee (GB)
13. Andre Thysse (SA)
14. Tito Mendoza (PAN)
15. Robin Reid (GB)
16. Omar Sheika (USA)
17. Kabary Salem (EGY)
18. Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)
19. Oscar Bravo (USA)
20. Glenn Catley (GB)
21. Anthony Mundine (AUSTRL)
22. Carmine Tufano (USA)
23. David Starie (GB)
24. Mario Veit (GER)
25. Dan Batchelder (USA)
26. Enrique Ornelas (USA)
27. James Lubwana (UGA)
28. Jean Paul Mendy (FRA)
29. Victor Oganov (RUS)
30. Charles Adamu (GHA)

### MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Champ: Bernard Hopkins (USA)
1. Howard Eastman (GB)
2. Cristian Sanavia (ITA)
3. Robert Allen (USA)
4. Kuvanych Toygonbayev (UZB)
5. Wayne Alexander (GB)
6. Eric Mitchell (USA)
7. Aslan Kodzoev (RUS)
8. Evans Ashira (KEN)
9. Raymond Joval (HOL)
10. Sergey Tatevosyan (RUS)
11. Hassine Cherifi (FRA)
12. Jermain Taylor (USA)
13. Quentin Smith (USA)
14. Morrade Hakkar (FRA)
15. Sam Soliman (AUSTRL)
16. Nader Hamdan (AUSTRL)
17. Tokutaro Toyozumi (JAP)
18. Jerry Elliott (NIG)
19. Jorge Sendra (SPA)
20. Bert Schenk (GER)
21. Epifanio Mendoza (COL)
22. Tokunbo Olajide (CAN)
23. Alejandro Berrio (COL)
24. Yoshinori Araki (JAP)
25. Mariano Carrera (ARG)
26. Carl Daniels (USA)
27. Anthony Bonsante (USA)
28. Kingsley Ikeke (CAN)
29. James Obedi Toney (GHA)
30. Peter Manfredo (USA)

### SUPER WELTERWEIGHTS
Champ: Oscar De La Hoya (USA)
Interim Champ: Javier Castillejo (SPA)
1. Fitz Vanderpool (CAN)
2. Shane Mosley (USA)
3. Fernando Vargas (USA)
4. Roman Karmazin (RUS)
5. Kassim Ouma (USA)
6. Akira Ohigashi (JAP)
7. Alex Bunema (USA)
8. Christophe Cancaux (FRA)
9. Mihaly Kotai (HUN)
10. Sergio Martinez (ARG)
11. Julio Garcia (CUB)
12. Raul Marquez (USA)
13. Sergei Dzindziruk (UKR)
14. J.C. Candelo (COL)
15. Shawn Garnett (USA)
16. Michael Rask (DEN)
17. Rodney Jones (USA)
18. Rhoshii Wells (USA)
19. Carlos Bojorquez (USA)
20. Richard Williams (GB)
21. Travis Simms (USA)
22. Marco Antonio Rubio (MEX)
23. Joachim Alcine (CAN)
24. Angel Hernandez (MEX)
25. Michael Lerma (USA)
26. Charles Whittaker (CAY)
27. Emmett Linton (USA)
28. Anderson Clayton (BRA)
29. Verno Phillips (USA)
30. Tshepo Mashego (SA)

### WELTERWEIGHTS
Champ: Ricardo Mayorga (NIC)
1. Vernon Forrest (USA)
2. Thomas Damgaard (DEN)
3. Carlos Baldomir (ARG)
4. Hiroshi Watanabe (JAP)
5. Manuel Gomez (MEX)
6. Michel Trabant (GER)
7. Rafael Pineda (COL)
8. Miguel Rodriguez (MEX)
9. Teddy Reid (USA)
10. Jawaid Khaliq (GB)
11. Michele Orlando (ITA)
12. Frederic Klose (FRA)
13. Paolo Roberto (SWE)
14. Christian Bladt (DEN)
15. Hercules Kyvelos (CAN)
16. Rev Santillan (PHIL)
17. Alpaslam Aguzum (TUR)
18. Joseph Makaringe (SA)
19. Neil Sinclair (GB)
20. Ishe Smith (USA)
21. Joel Julio (COL)
22. Kermit Cintron (USA)
23. James Hare (GB)
24. Michele Piccirillo (ITA)
25. Ernesto Carmona (MEX)
26. Eduardo Bejarano (ARG)
27. Chris Smith (USA)
28. Christopher Henry (BAR)
29. Freddy Hernandez (MEX)
30. Anthony Thompson (USA)

### SUPER LIGHTWEIGHTS
Champ: Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)
1. Gianluca Branco (ITA)
2. Arturo Gatti (CAN)
3. Ricky Hatton (GB)
4. Oktay Urkal (TUR)
5. Sharmba Mitchell (USA)
6. Miguel Cotto (PR)
7. Masakazu Satake (JAP)
8. Omar Weis (ARG)
9. James Leija (USA)
10. Jason Cook (GB)
11. Francisco Bojado (MEX)
12. Hector Camacho Jr. (PR)
13. Kelson Pinto (BRA)
14. Muhammad Abdullaev (UZB)
15. Juan Valenzuela (MEX)
16. Terrance Cauthen (USA)
17. Eamonn Magee (GB)

18. Junior Witter (GB)
19. Carlos Maussa (COL)
20. Souleymane M'Baye (FRA)
21. Ricardo Williams (USA)
22. Cesar Bazan (MEX)
23. Diobelys Hurtado (CUB)
24. Victor Kpadenou (GHA)
25. Ricky Quiles (USA)
26. Mikhail Krivolapov (RUS)
27. Alvaro Aguilar (MEX)
28. Carlos Mairena (NIC)
29. Victor Hugo Castro (ARG)
30. Ted Bami (GB)

## LIGHTWEIGHTS

**Champ: Floyd Mayweather (USA)**

1. Juan Lazcano (USA)
2. Steve Johnston (USA)
3. Jose Luis Castillo (MEX)
4. Phillip Ndou (SA)
5. Julien Lorcy (FRA)
6. Juan Diaz (MEX)
7. Kengo Nagashima (JAP)
8. Julio Diaz (USA)
9. Victoriano Damian Sosa (DR)
10. Aldo Rios (ARG)
11. Javier Jauregui (MEX)
12. Yuri Romanov (UKR)
13. Dennis Laurente (PHIL)
14. Stefano Zoff (ITA)
15. David Burke (GB)
16. Bobby Vanzie (GB)
17. Michael Clark (USA)
18. Lamar Murphy (USA)
19. Cristian Bejarano (MEX)
20. Colin Dunne (GB)
21. Steve Quinonez (USA)
22. Juan Gomez Trinidad (PR)
23. Michele Delli Paoli (ITA)
24. Mat Zegan (POL)
25. Alex Trujillo (PR)
26. Eleazar Contreras (USA)
27. Steve Forbes (USA)
28. Ricardo Silva (ARG)
29. Juliano Ramos (ARG)
30. Ameth Diaz (PAN)

## SUPER FEATHERWEIGHTS

**Champ: Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)**

1. Jesus Chavez (USA)
2. Randy Suico (PHIL)
3. Mzonke Fana (SA)
4. Joel Casamayor (CUB)
5. Affif Djelti (FRA)
6. Diego Corrales (USA)
7. Nobuto Honmo (JAP)
8. Julio Pablo Chacon (ARG)
9. Jorge Barrios (ARG)
10. Fernando Trejo (MEX)
11. Nate Campbell (USA)
12. Mike Anchondo (USA)
13. Ryuhei Sugita (JAP)
14. Humberto Soto (MEX)
15. Miguel Angel Huerta (MEX)
16. Daniel Attah (NIG)
17. Goyo Vargas (MEX)
18. Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)
19. Orlando Salido (MEX)
20. Boris Sinitsin (RUS)
21. Pedro Miranda (SPA)
22. Manuel Bocanegra (MEX)
23. Tiger Martinez (USA)
24. Yongsoo Choi (KOR)
25. Craig Docherty (GB)
26. Daniel Alicea (PR)
27. Alex Arthur (GB)
28. Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)
29. Steve Luevano (USA)
30. Urbano Antillon (USA)

## FEATHERWEIGHTS

**Champ: Erik Morales (MEX)**

1. Injin Chi (KOR)
2. Michael Brodie (GB)
3. Takashi Koshimoto (JAP)
4. William Abelyan (USA)
5. Cyril Thomas (FRA)
6. Luis Fuentes (MEX)
7. Spend Abazi (DEN)
8. Zahir Raheem (USA)
9. Rocky Juarez (USA)
10. Guty Espadas (MEX)
11. Manuel Calvo (SPA)
12. Hector Velazquez (MEX)
13. Takalani Ndlovu (SA)
14. Valdemir Pereira (BRA)
15. Whyber Garcia (PAN)
16. Juan Carlos Ramirez (MEX)
17. Angel Chacon (PR)
18. Wayne McCullough (IRE)
19. Fernando Velardez (MEX)
20. Vuyani Bungu (SA)
21. Juan Gerardo Cabrera (ARG)
22. Hector Marquez (MEX)
23. Yangsoo Sung (KOR)
24. George Priest Smalls (USA)
25. Dainoshin Kuma (JAP)
26. Eiichi Sugama (JAP)
27. Oscar Leon (COL)
28. Roberto Guerrero (USA)
29. David Murillo (MEX)
30. Choi Tseveenpurev (MON)

## SUPER BANTAMWEIGHTS

**Champ: Oscar Larios (MEX)**

1. Napapol Kiattisakchocchoi (THAI)
2. Nadel Hussein (AUSTRL)
3. Shigeru Nakazato (JAP)
4. Israel Vazquez (MEX)
5. Paulie Ayala (USA)
6. Kozo Ishii (JAP)
7. Willie Jorrin (USA)
8. Manabu Fukushima (JAP)
9. Osamu Sato (JAP)
10. Akihiro Kanai (JAP)
11. Emmanuel Lucero (USA)
12. Jose Rojas (VEN)
13. Salim Medjkoune (FRA)
14. David Donis (USA)
15. Yoshikane Nakajima (JAP)
16. Marcos Licona (MEX)
17. Hector Julio Avila (DR)
18. Jimrex Jaca (PHIL)
19. Junichi Watanabe (JAP)
20. Art Simonyan (USA)
21. Masakazu Sugawara (JAP)
22. Celestino Caballero (PAN)
23. Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)
24. Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)
25. Pastor Maurin (ARG)
26. Alejandro Barrera (MEX)
27. Andres Cabrera (MEX)
28. Martin Honorio (MEX)
29. Sergio Medina (ARG)
30. Cristobal Cruz (MEX)

## BANTAMWEIGHTS

**Champ: Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)**

1. Toshiaki Nishioka (JAP)
2. Diego Morales (MEX)
3. Genaro Garcia (USA)
4. David Guerault (FRA)
5. Hozumi Hasegawa (JAP)
6. Ricardo Vargas (MEX)
7. Julio Zarate (MEX)
8. Jhonny Gonzalez (MEX)
9. Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)
10. Noel Wilders (GB)
11. Tim Austin (USA)
12. Gerardo Martinez (MEX)
13. Jesus Perez (COL)
14. Hugo Dianzo (MEX)
15. Daniel Ponce (MEX)
16. Jess Maca (PHIL)
17. Hideki Todaka (JAP)
18. Moises Castro (NIC)
19. Heriberto Ruiz (MEX)
20. Rogelio Galicia (PHIL)
21. Sasha Baktin (RUS)
22. Steve Molitor (CAN)
23. Jorge Lacierva (MEX)
24. Julio Cesar Avila (MEX)
25. Miguel Angel Munguia (MEX)
26. Julio Gamboa (NIC)
27. Nobuaki Naka (JAP)
28. Silence Mabuza (SA)
29. Nicky Booth (GB)
30. Vusi Malinga (SA)

## SUPER FLYWEIGHTS

**Champ: Masamori Tokuyama (JAP)**

1. Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)
2. Reynaldo Hurtado (COL)
3. Luis Bolano (COL)
4. Malcolm Tunacao (PHIL)
5. Medgoen Singsurat (THAI)
6. Mauricio Pastrana (COL)
7. Hideyasu Ishihara (JAP)
8. Martin Castillo (MEX)
9. Katsushige Kawashima (JAP)
10. Peter Culshaw (GB)
11. Jose Navarro (USA)
12. Saen Sor Ploenchit (THAI)
13. Felix Machado (VEN)
14. Masaki Kawabata (JAP)
15. Oscar Andrade (MEX)
16. Sergio Perez (MEX)
17. Jose Beranza (MEX)
18. Ricardo Cordoba (PAN)
19. Shin Ogata (JAP)
20. Karim Quibir (SPA)
21. Erick Lopez (MEX)
22. Lunga Ntontela (SA)
23. Cuauhtemoc Vargas (MEX)
24. Cyril Bellanger (FRA)
25. Kohei Matsuura (JAP)
26. Theo Modise (SA)
27. Masayuki Arinaga (JAP)
28. Eiji Kojima (JAP)
29. Neddy Garcia (USA)
30. Eduardo Pacheco (COL)

## FLYWEIGHTS

**Champ: Pongsaklek Wonjongkam (THAI)**

1. Hussein Hussein (AUSTRL)
2. Hidenobu Honda (JAP)
3. Luis Maldonado (MEX)
4. Takefumi Sakata (JAP)
5. Brian Viloria (USA)
6. Noriyuki Komatsu (JAP)
7. Damaen Kelly (GB)
8. Tomas Rojas (MEX)
9. Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)
10. Jair Jimenez (COL)
11. Hiroshi Nakano (JAP)
12. Mzukisi Sikali (SA)
13. Masaki Nakamuna (JAP)
14. Lorenzo Parra (VEN)
15. Randy Mangubat (PHIL)
16. Koji Koyama (JAP)
17. Steffen Norskov (DEN)
18. Brahim Asloum (FRA)
19. Vic Darchinyan (AUSTRL)
20. Daisuke Naito (JAP)
21. Yusuke Morishima (JAP)
22. Mimoun Chent (FRA)
23. Ivan Hernandez (MEX)
24. Carlos Bouchan (MEX)
25. Horacio Chicagual (ARG)
26. Julio Ler (ARG)
27. Jose Araiza (MEX)
28. Jose Lopez Bueno (SPA)
29. Jason Booth (GB)
30. Sherwin Paro (PHIL)

## LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS

**Champ: Jorge Arce (MEX)**

1. Juanito Rubillar (PHIL)
2. Eric Ortiz (MEX)
3. Melchor Cob Castro (MEX)
4. Yosam Choi (KOR)
5. Tatsuo Hayashida (JAP)
6. Manuel Vargas (MEX)
7. Roberto Vazquez (PAN)
8. Monelisi Myekeni (SA)
9. Shingo Yamaguchi (JAP)
10. Masato Hatakeyama (JAP)
11. Jaewon Kim (KOR)
12. Marvin Tampos (PHIL)
13. Jesus Martinez (MEX)
14. Joma Gamboa (PHIL)
15. Sarikalek O. Eakarin (THAI)
16. Rafael Lozano (SPA)
17. Hugo Cazares (MEX)
18. Juan Centeno (NIC)
19. Steve Msimango (SA)
20. Bebis Mendoza (COL)
21. Carlos Fajardo (NIC)
22. Armand De La Cruz (PHIL)
23. Nerys Espinoza (NIC)
24. Andrea Sarritzu (ITA)
25. Ernesto Castro (NIC)
26. Jun Kitano (JAP)
27. Wendyl Janiola (PHIL)
28. Angelo Dottin (PAN)
29. Edgar Sosa (MEX)
30. Bert Batawang (PHIL)

## STRAWWEIGHTS

**Champ: Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)**

1. Isaac Bustos (MEX)
2. Eagle Akakura (JAP)
3. Heriberto Gijon (PHIL)
4. Rodel Mayol (PHIL)
5. Genki Ohnaka (JAP)
6. Satoshi Kogumasaka (JAP)
7. Khulile Makeba (SA)
8. Mohamed Rachman (INDO)
9. Juan Palacios (NIC)
10. Sithembele Kibiti (SA)
11. Hiroyuki Abe (JAP)
12. Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)
13. Noel Tunacao (PHIL)
14. Oledong Sithsanerchai (THAI)
15. Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)
16. Hiroshi Nakajima (JAP)
17. Ki-Moon Na (KOR)
18. Yutaka Niida (JAP)
19. Ulises Solis (MEX)
20. Eduardo Marquez (NIC)
21. Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)
22. Juan Alfonso Keb Baas (MEX)
23. Chana Porpaoin (THAI)
24. Makoto Suzuki (JAP)
25. Sizwe Sinyabi (SA)
26. Omar Soto (MEX)
27. Namchai Ratanachaigym (THAI)
28. Pornsawan Porpramook (THAI)
29. Teruo Misawa (JAP)
30. Juan Landaeta (VEN)

# IBF RATINGS

*(Ratings as of July 2003)*

## HEAVYWEIGHTS

**Champ: Chris Byrd (USA)**

1. Vacant
2. Fres Oquendo (USA)
3. David Tua (NZ)
4. Hasim Rahman (USA)
5. John Ruiz (USA)
6. Evander Holyfield (USA)
7. Kirk Johnson (CAN)
8. Vitali Klitschko (UKR)
9. Mike Tyson (USA)
10. Wladimir Klitschko (UKR)
11. Lamon Brewster (USA)
12. Eliecer Castillo (CUB)

## CRUISERWEIGHTS

**Champ: James Toney (USA)**

1. O'Neil Bell (USA)
2. Vacant
3. Ezra Sellers (USA)
4. Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)
5. Virgil Hill (USA)
6. Kelvin Davis (USA)
7. Vincenzo Cantatore (ITA)
8. Alexander Gurov (UKR)
9. Alex Petkovic (RUS)
10. Louis Azille (USA)
11. Dale Brown (CAN)
12. Kenny Keene (USA)

## LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS

**Champ: Antonio Tarver (USA)**

1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Julio Gonzalez (USA)
4. Clinton Woods (GB)
5. Paul Briggs (AUSTRL)
6. Thomas Ulrich (GER)
7. Montell Griffin (USA)
8. Glencoffe Johnson (USA)
9. George Jones (USA)
10. Jorge Castro (ARG)
11. Stipe Drews (CRO)
12. Eric Harding (USA)

## SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

**Champ: Sven Ottke (GER)**

1. Vacant
2. Danilo Haussler (GER)
3. Mads Larsen (DEN)
4. Charles Brewer (USA)
5. Mikkel Kessler (DEN)
6. Syd Vanderpool (CAN)
7. Antwun Echols (USA)
8. Tito Mendoza (PAN)
9. Mario Veit (GER)
10. Jeff Lacy (USA)
11. Byron Mitchell (USA)
12. Danny Green (AUSTRL)

## MIDDLEWEIGHTS

**Champ: Bernard Hopkins (USA)**

1. Robert Allen (USA)
2. Vacant
3. Howard Eastman (GB)
4. Bert Schenk (GER)
5. Raymond Joval (HOL)
6. Evans Ashira (GUY)
7. Jermain Taylor (USA)
8. Bea Diallo (LIB)
9. Derrell Coley (USA)
10. Sam Soliman (AUSTRL)
11. Aaron Mitchell (USA)
12. Cristian Sanavia (ITA)

## JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS

**Champ: Winky Wright (USA)**

1. Kassim Ouma (USA)
2. Vacant
3. J.C. Candelo (USA)
4. Emmett Linton (USA)
5. Verno Phillips (USA)
6. Shane Mosley (USA)
7. Roman Karmazin (RUS)
8. Angel Hernandez (USA)
9. Julio Garcia (USA)
10. Fernando Vargas (USA)
11. Rhoshii Wells (USA)
12. Travis Simms (USA)

## WELTERWEIGHTS

**Champ: Cory Spinks (USA)**

1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Thomas Damgaard (DEN)
4. James Hare (ENG)
5. Jose Celaya (USA)
6. Vernon Forrest (USA)
7. Hercules Kyvelos (CAN)
8. Rafael Pineda (COL)
9. Michele Trabant (GER)
10. Christian Bladt (DEN)
11. Kermit Cintron (USA)
12. Teddy Reid (USA)

## JR. WELTERWEIGHTS

**Champ: Kostya Tszyu (AUSTRL)**

1. Sharmba Mitchell (USA)
2. Vacant
3. Oktay Urkal (TUR)
4. Omar Weis (ARG)
5. Arturo Gatti (USA)
6. Mike Stewart (USA)
7. Paul Spadafora (USA)
8. Miguel Cotto (USA)
9. James Leija (USA)
10. DeMarcus Corley (USA)
11. Ben Tackie (GHA)
12. Carlos Vilches (ARG)

## LIGHTWEIGHTS

**Champ: Vacant**

1. Javier Jauregui (MEX)
2. Levander Johnson (USA)
3. Angel Manfredy (USA)
4. Jose Luis Castillo (MEX)
5. Julien Lorcy (FRA)
6. Julio Diaz (USA)
7. Juan Gomez Trinidad (PR)
8. Juan Lazcano (USA)
9. Steve Johnston (USA)
10. Michael Clark (USA)
11. Victoriano Sosa (DR)
12. Lamar Murphy (USA)

## JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS

**Champ: Carlos Hernandez (USA)**

1. Steve Forbes
2. Vacant
3. Joel Casamayor (USA)
4. David Santos (USA)
5. Jesus Chavez (USA)
6. Diego Corrales (USA)
7. Phillip Ndou (SA)
8. Jorge Barrios (ARG)
9. Nate Campbell (USA)
10. Edelmiro Martinez (USA)
11. Julio Pablo Chacon (ARG)
12. Gary St. Clair (USA)

## FEATHERWEIGHTS

**Champ: Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)**

1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Marco Antonio Barrera (MEX)
4. William Abelyan (USA)
5. Michael Brodie (ENG)
6. Oscar Leon (PR)
7. Orlando Salido (MEX)
8. In Jin Chi (KOR)
9. Zahir Raheem (USA)
10. Rocky Juarez (USA)
11. Victor Polo (COL)
12. Guty Espadas (MEX)

## JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS

**Champ: Manny Pacquaio (PHIL)**

1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Jose Luis Valbuena (ARG)
4. Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)
5. Paulie Ayala (USA)
6. David Donis (USA)
7. Nadel Hussein (AUSTRL)
8. F. Rakkiatgym (THAI)
9. Fernando Velardez (USA)
10. Emmanuel Lucero (USA)
11. Israel Vazquez (MEX)
12. Diego Morales (MEX)

## BANTAMWEIGHTS

**Champ: Rafael Marquez (MEX)**

1. Pete Frissina (USA)
2. Tim Austin (USA)
3. Ricardo Vargas (MEX)
4. Genaro Garcia (MEX)
5. David Guerault (FRA)
6. Roger Gonzalez (USA)
7. Jesus Perez (COL)
8. Noel Wilders (GB)
9. Ratanachai Vorapin (THAI)
10. Jose Aguiniga (USA)
11. Fahsung 3K Battery (THAI)
12. Hugo Dianzo (MEX)

## JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS

**Champ: Luis Perez (NIC)**

1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Felix Machado (VEN)
4. Mauricio Pastrana (COL)
5. Luis Bolano (COL)
6. Martin Castillo (MEX)
7. Peter Culshaw (ENG)
8. Angel Priolo (COL)
9. Dimitri Kirilov (RUS)
10. Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)
11. Saen Sor Ploenchit (THAI)
12. Adonis Rivas (NIC)

## FLYWEIGHTS

**Champ: Irene Pacheco (COL)**

1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Hussein Hussein (LEB)
4. Vic Darchinian (AUSTRL)
5. Damaen Kelly (GB)
6. Alejandro Montiel (MEX)
7. Takefumi Sakata (JAP)
8. Jair Jimenez (COL)
9. Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)
10. Luis Maldonado (MEX)
11. Wandee Chareon (THAI)
12. Masaki Kawabata (JAP)

## JR. FLYWEIGHTS

**Champ: Jose Burgos (MEX)**

1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Fahlan Sakreerin (THAI)
4. Alexander Sanchez (PR)
5. Eric Ortiz (MEX)
6. Wendyl Janiola (PHIL)
7. Bebis Mendoza (COL)
8. Hidenobu Honda (JAP)
9. Shingo Yamaguchi (JAP)
10. Tatsuo Hatashida (JAP)
11. Kermin Guardia(COL)
12. Mhikiza Myekeni (SA)

## MINI FLYWEIGHTS

**Champ: Edgar Cardenas (MEX)**

1. Vacant
2. Vacant
3. Daniel Reyes (COL)
4. Muhammad Rachman (INDO)
5. Chana Porpaoin (THAI)
6. Noel Tunacao (PHIL)
7. Hiroshi Matsumoto (JAP)
8. Ernesto Rubillar (PHIL)
9. Joma Gamboa (PHIL)
10. Roberto Leyva (MEX)
11. Rodel Mayol (PHIL)
12. Jaewon Kim (KOR)

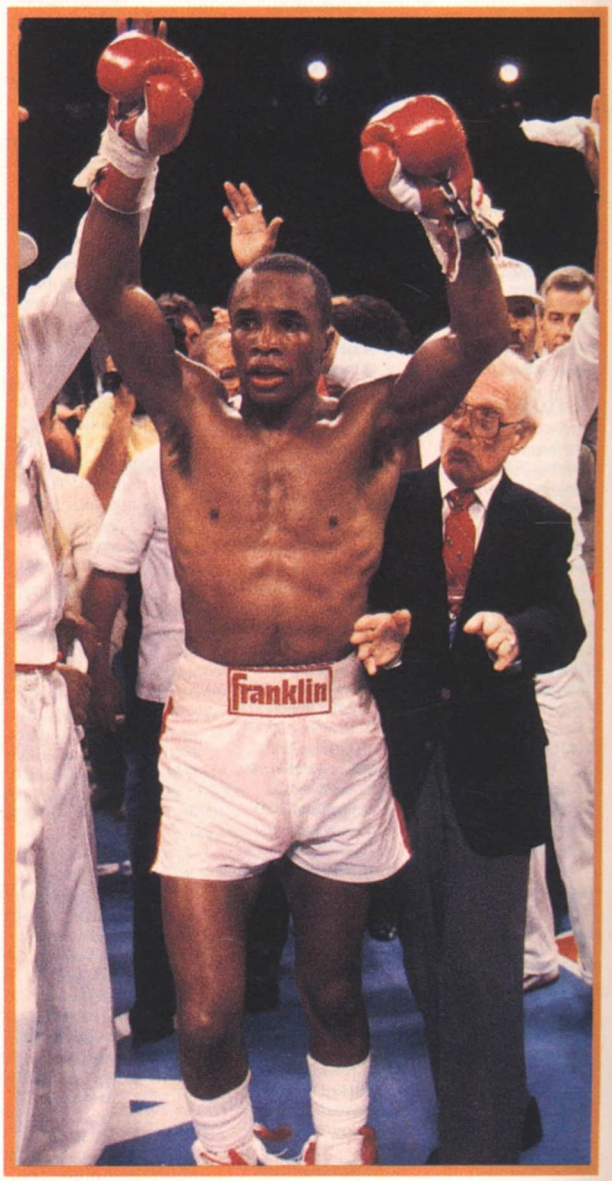
CLASSIC

From THE RING, August 1987

# SUGAR RAY ... STILL IN STYLE

**By Nigel Collins**

*(Editor's Note: This is a condensed version.)*



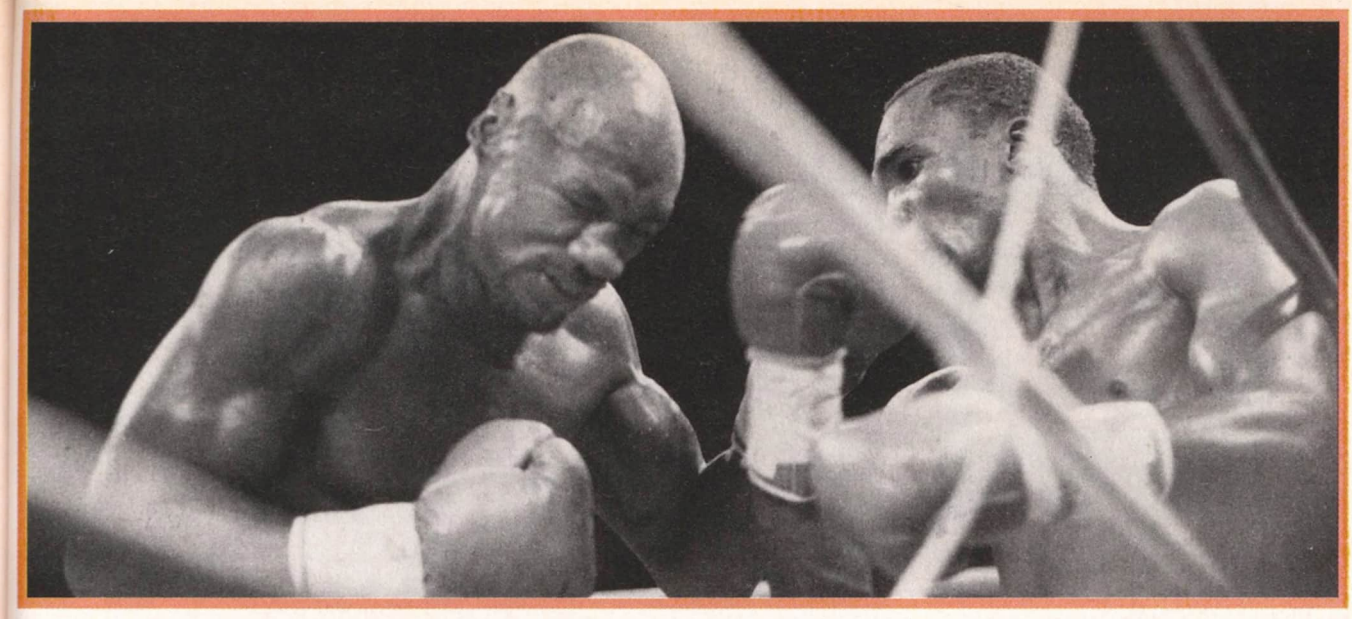

It was the richest prize fight of all-time, the biggest one-day sporting event in recorded history. It was April 6, 1987, the day Sugar Ray Leonard returned to center stage to reclaim his position as the brightest star in boxing's galaxy. The measure of Leonard's magic is not that he dreamed the impossible dream of beating Marvelous Marvin Hagler, but that he dared to make his dream come true.

Leonard did it with a subtle blend of style and substance, a rare mix of artistry and illusion. But above all, like a pool shark calling his shot, he did it exactly the way he said he would.

But then, any boxer with the élan to meet the press wearing a yachting cap after the biggest victory of his career is probably capable of anything.

Fashions come and fashions go, but some things never go out of style. Good timing and class are two of them. Sugar Ray—who always had an abundance of both—is another. Eleven years after he emerged as the darling of the 1976 Olympics, the "Seven-Up Kid" is still very much in vogue. He's so hot, in fact, the immediate future of boxing currently hangs in the balance, waiting for Leonard to decide whether or not he'll fight again.

Leonard's tremendous upset victory over Hagler is a tale that weaves together all the elements of great theater into a fascinating tapestry unparalleled in the rich annals of boxing. It is also a story of how boxing has gradually



***Leonard emphasized from the beginning that the way to beat Hagler was with movement and hand speed. That didn't mean it would work. Leonard, however, made it work, crashing shots off Hagler's dome in the early rounds of the fight.***

changed, evolved philosophically and stylistically to a point where brains are finally appreciated almost as much as brawn.

It all began less than a year ago with a supposedly innocent dinner between the two combatants at Leonard's Bethesda, Maryland, restaurant. But with Sugar Ray involved, one has to wonder exactly how innocent it really was. The way things turned out, he was probably setting a trap for Hagler all along. Like all great hunters, Leonard used himself for bait, luring Hagler into his ambush like a fistic Mata Hari seducing an overconfident general to his doom.

In many ways, Leonard was as brilliant before the bout as he was during it. The 158-pound body he created was a masterpiece in itself. While the fight was not choreographed, as some disgruntled Hagler fans would have you believe, Leonard certainly followed a carefully laid strategy to the letter. From the day he casually "mentioned" during a TV interview he would be willing to return for a "one and only" match against Hagler, to the moment his hand was raised in victory, Sugar Ray was in complete control.

Despite the fact much of the sporting media spoke out against the bout because of Leonard's long layoff and history of eye injuries (two points that Leonard rendered completely moot with his sparkling performance), the success of the promotion was unequaled in boxing history. The paying public, which usually knows best, embraced the match from its inception and supported it to the tune of well over $60-million ... and still counting.

Ringside at fight time, the vibes were electric. For a few enchanted hours, it was like being in the center of the universe. It was as if the normal stuff of life and death were temporarily unimportant. Nothing really mattered except for the impending fight.

With the sun low in the inky desert sky, the gladiators finally made their way to the ring pitched in back of Caesars' tennis courts. It was, of course, a classic confrontation of contrasting styles. Leonard is a thoroughbred, sleek and swift, groomed by television, a gifted charmer leading a charmed life. Hagler, on the other hand, is a warhorse, hard and powerful, forged in the clubfight trenches, a proud athlete following the code of the warrior. Yet despite their obvious differences, they shared in common the bond of being the best two fighters of the post-Ali era.

Leonard, as challenger, was first to duck between the ropes, dressed to kill in a short, white satin jacket that looked more suited for a night at the disco than the biggest fight of his career. Hagler, shrouded in a hooded blue robe, made his entrance soon after, his scowl a fitting counterbalance to Leonard's dazzling smile. The Pointer Sisters sizzled their way through the National Anthem while a pyrotechnic version of the American flag fizzled atop Caesars' roof.

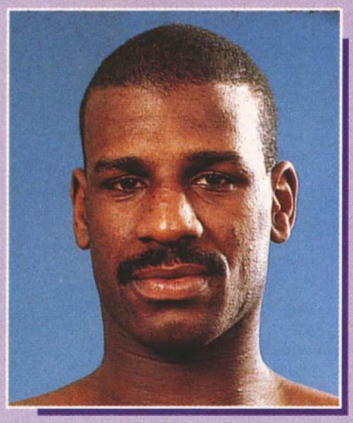
Following obligatory instructions from referee Richard Steele, the fighters returned to their corners to await the opening bell. Hagler, anxious to begin, jogged in place, pounded his gloves together, and yelled "Let's go, let's go" to no one in particular. Leonard, by comparison, seemed relatively relaxed—an attitude that stood him in good stead throughout the fight.

Almost immediately, the pattern of the fight was established: Leonard ran and Hagler chased. But Leonard's retreat was no ungainly scramble. It was all part of the scheme Sugar Ray had plotted since he first got the notion he could outfox and outbox the man considered by many the best in the business.

Leonard said from the start that the way to beat Hagler was with movement and hand speed, winning one round at a time. Hagler knew the plan. Hell, everyone with even a remote interest in boxing knew the plan. But that didn't stop it from working. Leonard ran, but he didn't even try to hide. Midway into the opening round, Leonard stopped and fired a right-left into Hagler's face. The lead right didn't have too much on it, but the left clipped Hagler on the side of the nose.

The stinging blow angered Hagler, hurt his pride (not to mention his nose), and let everybody know Leonard was there to win. The punch must have also given Marvelous Marvin something to think about. The next time Leonard paused to

# THE RING RATINGS, August 1987



*Michael Spinks*

**HEAVYWEIGHTS**
**World Champ: Michael Spinks,** St. Louis, MO
1. **Mike Tyson,** Catskill, NY
2. **Pinklon Thomas,** Wyandotte, MI
3. **James Smith,** Magnolia, NC
4. **Tim Witherspoon,** Philadelphia, PA
5. **Evander Holyfield,** Atlanta, GA
6. **Tyrell Biggs,** Philadelphia, PA
7. **Trevor Berbick,** Canada
8. **James Douglas,** Columbus, OH
9. **Tony Tucker,** Grand Rapids, MI
10. **Bert Cooper,** Philadelphia, PA

**LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS**
**World Champ: Vacant**
1. **Marvin Johnson,** Indianapolis, IN
2. **Bobby Czyz,** Wanaque, NJ
3. **Thomas Hearns,** Detroit, MI
4. **Dennis Andries,** England
5. **Eddie Davis,** Freeport, NY
6. **Leslie Stewart,** Trinidad
7. **Virgil Hill,** Grand Forks, ND
8. **Chong-Pal Park,** Korea
9. **Ramzi Hassan,** Campo, CA
10. **Willie Edwards,** Detroit, MI

**MIDDLEWEIGHTS**
**World Champ: Ray Leonard,** Potomac, MD
1. **Marvin Hagler,** Brockton, MA
2. **Herol Graham,** England
3. **Michael Olajide,** Canada
4. **Mike McCallum,** New York, NY
5. **Iran Barkley,** New York, NY
6. **Robbie Sims,** Brockton, MA
7. **Donald Curry,** Ft. Worth, TX
8. **Michael Nunn,** Sherman Oaks, CA
9. **Frank Tate,** Houston, TX
10. **Duane Thomas,** Detroit, MI

**WELTERWEIGHTS**
**World Champ: Lloyd Honeyghan,** England
1. **Mark Breland,** Brooklyn, NY
2. **Marlon Starling,** Hartford, CT
3. **Tommy Ayers,** Cincinnati, OH
4. **Maurice Blocker,** Washington, D.C.
5. **Simon Brown,** Washington, D.C.
6. **Tyrone Trice,** Detroit, MI
7. **Patrizio Oliva,** Italy
8. **Tsuyoshi Hamada,** Japan
9. **Frankie Warren,** Corpus Christi, TX
10. **Terry Marsh,** England

**LIGHTWEIGHTS**
**World Champ: Vacant**
1. **Hector Camacho,** New York, NY
2. **Edwin Rosario,** Puerto Rico
3. **Greg Haugen,** Auburn, WA
4. **Julio Cesar Chavez,** Mexico
5. **Pernell Whitaker,** Norfolk, VA
6. **Terrence Alli,** New York, NY
7. **Meldrick Taylor,** Philadelphia, PA
8. **Frankie Randall,** Morristown, TN
9. **Vinny Pazienza,** Cranston, RI
10. **Emancio Castro,** Colombia

**FEATHERWEIGHTS**
**World Champ: Antonio Esparragoza,** Venezuela
1. **Azumah Nelson,** Ghana
2. **Steve Cruz,** Ft. Worth, TX
3. **Calvin Grove,** Pottstown, PA
4. **Barry McGuigan,** Ireland
5. **Antonio Rivera,** Puerto Rico
6. **Samart Payakaroon,** Thailand
7. **Louie Espinosa,** Phoenix, AZ
8. **Victor Callejas,** Puerto Rico
9. **Marcos Villasana,** Mexico
10. **Hector Lopez,** Glendale, CA

**BANTAMWEIGHTS**
**World Champ: Vacant**
1. **Miguel Lora,** Colombia
2. **Khaosai Galaxy,** Thailand
3. **Gilberto Roman,** Mexico
4. **Jiro Watanabe,** Japan
5. **Gaby Canizales,** Laredo, TX
6. **Greg Richardson,** Youngstown, OH
7. **Albert Davila,** Pomona, CA
8. **Kelvin Seabrooks,** Charlotte, NC
9. **Santos Laciar,** Argentina
10. **Takuyama Muguruma,** Japan

**FLYWEIGHTS**
**World Champ: Sot Chitalada,** Thailand
1. **Jung-Koo Chang,** Korea
2. **Fidel Bassa,** Colombia
3. **Myung-Woo Yuh,** Korea
4. **Hilario Zapata,** Panama
5. **Dodie Penalosa,** Philippines
6. **Paul Gonzales,** Los Angeles, CA
7. **Gabriel Bernal,** Mexico
8. **Benedicto Murillo,** Panama
9. **Rodolfo Blanco,** Colombia
10. **Rae-Ki Ahn,** Korea

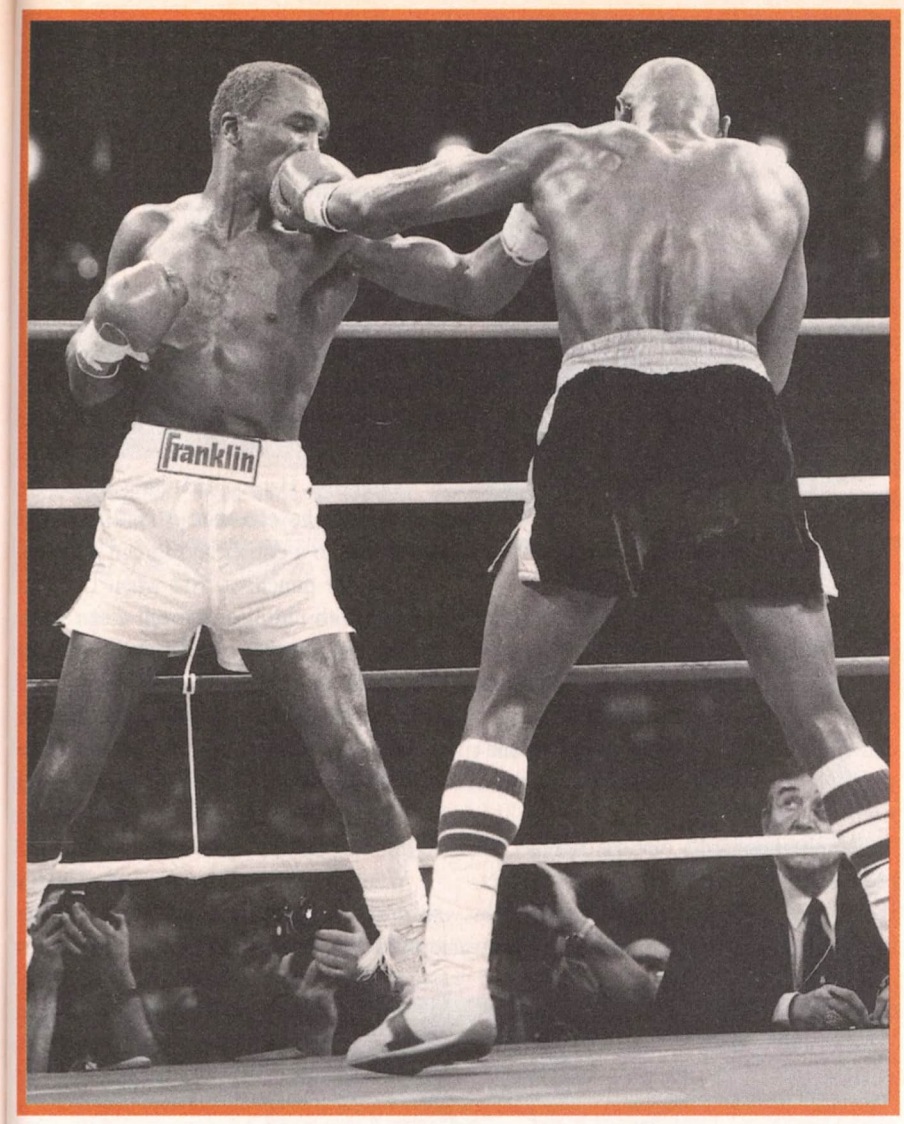
punch, Hagler flinched even before Ray pulled the trigger.

Much has been made of the fact that Hagler, a natural southpaw, opened the bout boxing out of an orthodox stance. While it is true Hagler fared better when fighting left-handed, it was Leonard's fresh legs, not Hagler's stance that won the first round on all three official scorecards. Actually, Hagler switched southpaw for the second half of the round and it made no difference. He was simply too slow to catch Leonard regardless of which hand he led with.

There was almost a Zen-like quality to Leonard's fight. He employed psychological warfare to perfection. But don't get the impression Leonard fought like a monk. There was also a touch of cruelty to his handiwork.

The mind games began early. Leonard, who had boldly forecast that he would "mess with Hagler's head," began mugging and making rude faces in the first. In round two, he let it all hang out in his successful bid to ruffle the champ's feathers. At one point, he walked away from Hagler a la Jersey Joe Walcott, then spun and connected with a left-right to the head.

Hagler, a rock-hard 158½, played right into Leonard's cunning hands. He blew his cool, lunging after his dancing tormentor with wild swings born of frustration.




*The southpaw Hagler came out in a conventional stance for the first couple of minutes of the fight, trying to peck at the elusive Leonard with a lefty jab. It didn't matter. Leonard was too fast to keep up with, as Hagler lost the round on all three official scorecards.*

The mighty middleweight champion, unbeaten in the past 11 years, suddenly looked old, slow, and vulnerable.

Round three was almost a carbon copy of the first two cantos. Leonard's lateral movement kept him out of reach and in control. He peppered Hagler with quick combos and sneak rights, wisely clinching whenever danger threatened.

By round four, Sugar Ray felt confident enough to unleash a showboat bolo that landed below the belt. Steele issued a warning, but the crowd howled in delight. Late in the session, Leonard landed a three-point combination to Hagler's face. His timing was remarkable for one who had had but nine rounds of real combat since his first retirement in November '82.

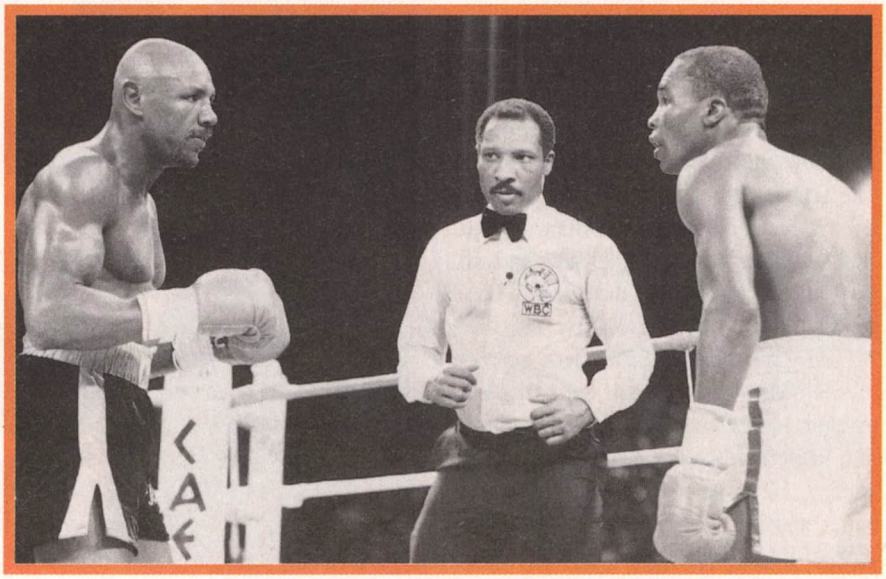
Hagler began to reach Leonard with his southpaw jab, but on the few occasions he managed to bull Leonard into the ropes, his once awesome bodyshots lacked their former potency. When forced to exchange, Leonard's hand speed allowed him to more than hold his own. Those who figured Leonard would be finished the first time he stood and swapped punches with Hagler were quickly proven wrong. After four rounds, THE RING scorecard had Sugar Ray ahead, four-zip.

Leonard came out quickly in round five with a right to Hagler's head. The champion took another light one-two in the face, but countered with a much harder left hook to Sugar Ray's head. Leonard rallied back with a number of sharp rights as the pendulum swung in the challenger's favor once more. However, Hagler would not be denied. He popped in three strong lead rights, hooked well to the body, then came upstairs with another left hook.

Leonard tried to flurry back, but paid for his brashness when Hagler nailed him with a jarring right uppercut that briefly wobbled Sugar Ray. As the crowd gasped, Hagler followed up with a bruising assault that lasted several seconds after the bell. Leonard's day at the beach was over.

Hagler continued to score effectively with his lead right in round six. Ray had slowed down a tad and was obliged to fight more and run less. Amazingly, he outpunched Hagler along the ropes and got the better of several bristling exchanges to win the round.

The pace began to tell on Leonard by round seven. He came down off his toes,




*Sugar Ray promised to "mess with Hagler's head," and resorted to mind games early, like sticking his head out, tempting Hagler to hit it, as well mugging and making rude faces toward the champ.*

***Hagler took the momentum away from Leonard in the middle rounds by bulling Sugar Ray against the ropes. Hagler then landed lead rights and hooks to the body.***

and Hagler took full advantage of the situation, punishing Sugar Ray with an assortment of blows. Leonard flurried late, but Hagler countered with hard hooks to the head.

Hagler enjoyed another good round in the eighth. He still had his southpaw jab working, and Leonard's counter flurries were less frequent. Though Sugar Ray's movement made Hagler look foolish at times, he was absorbing far more punches than previously. The astonishing thing was that he took the blows so well!

Round nine was the best of the fight. Leonard opened with a left-right combo, Hagler answered with a left hook, and then they declared war. Sugar Ray outpunched Marvelous Marvin in a brief exchange and moved away with Hagler in hot pursuit. Hagler hammered home three rights in a row, and Leonard was suddenly in more trouble than at any time during the bout.

Though he looked very weary, Leonard somehow found the energy to fight back. The action seesawed back and forth, each having his moments. But when all was said and done, it was Hagler who had the better of it, punctuating the round with a solid left-right to the head.

The torrid tempo of the ninth took its toll on both. Round 10 was tame by comparison, but Leonard boxed well, controlling matters without expending too much energy. He stole points with lead right hands and quick flurries, while avoiding most of Hagler's bombs.

Angelo Dundee, who did a masterful job of motivation in Leonard's corner, pulled out all the stops during the rest period leading up to the 11th round.

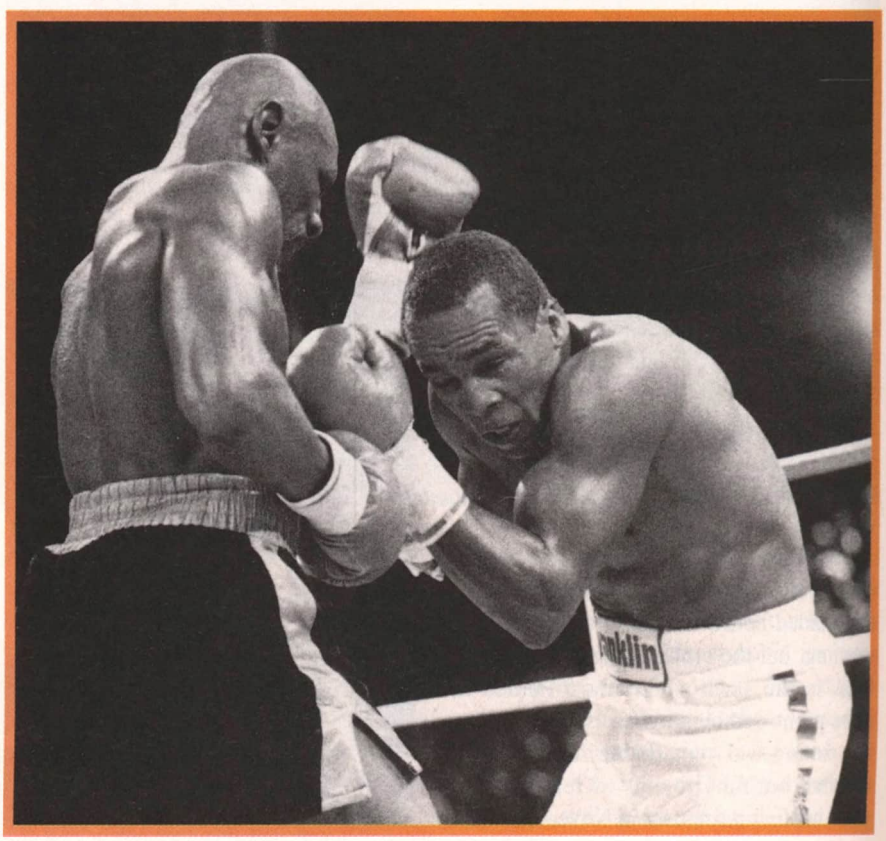
"Six minutes to the title," Dundee exhorted. "Six minutes, champ. Man, you can do six minutes in your sleep, can't you? Now when he throws his right, I want you to hook."

Despite Leonard's obvious fatigue, the pep talk seemed to have a positive effect. Every time Hagler scored, Leonard came back with something slightly flashier to take the play away. Hagler looked bemused, unable to solve the riddle moving before him just out of reach. As the round wore down, Sugar Ray began to clown. He stuck out his face for Hagler to hit, then pulled back out of range before the aging champion could punch the smile off his pretty mug.

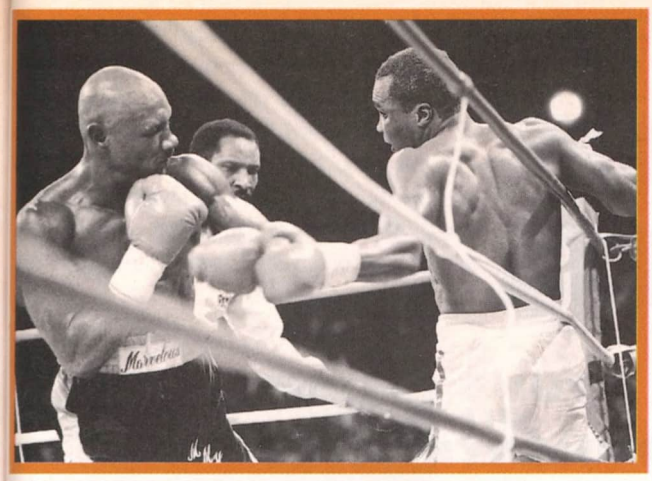
With the crowd screaming encouragement, Leonard raised his arms in victory as he moved out to face Hagler for the final three minutes. He obviously believed all he had to do was last the round in order to win.

Naturally, Hagler had other ideas. He continued the chase and finally lured Leonard into a corner and forced him into a toe-to-toe punchout. But when Leonard erupted with close to a dozen clean shots to the head, Marvelous Marvin backed off and Sugar danced away, cheers ringing in his ears. Nevertheless, Hagler wasn't quite finished. He ignored Sugar Ray's version of the "Ali Shuffle" and landed several hard blows in the closing moments of the fight.

When Chuck Hull announced it was a split decision, a moan went up from the crowd. It had been solidly in Hagler's



***Round nine provided the best action of the fight. Leonard survived some scary moments in the ninth, yet battled back and kept things competitive.***



***Hagler chased and often cornered Leonard. But Sugar Ray shocked the crowd, and to some degree Hagler, firing quick salvos off the ropes to not only escape possible danger, but score big with the judges, who ruled for Leonard via split decision.***

camp before the first bell, but soon switched allegiance when it became apparent Sugar Ray had retained much of his old magic. Judges Dave Moretti and Lou Filippo each scored the bout 115-113, but for different fighters. Moretti favored Leonard, and Filippo voted for Hagler. Judge Jo Jo Guerra broke the stalemate, giving Leonard the fight, and the world middleweight championship, by a lopsided and controversial 118-110 margin. THE RING agreed with Moretti, scoring 115-113 in Leonard's favor.

Guerra was severely criticized for his one-sided scorecard. It began with a sour grapes outburst by Pat Petronelli at the post-fight press conference and continued in many TV and newspaper accounts of the fight. While we scored the match much closer than he did, THE RING feels Guerra has been unfairly defamed.

It was a very difficult fight to score. Many rounds were extremely close and who won them is largely a matter of interpretation.

Those who enjoy slick boxing probably scored the close rounds for Leonard, 34-1 (24), while those who prefer aggression and hard punching gave many of the same sessions to Hagler, 62-3-2 (52). For better or for worse, boxing seems to be undergoing a gradual metamorphosis away from the latter point of view and toward the former. Fights are stopped much quicker today than ever before, and, thanks in large part to the legacy of Muhammad Ali, there is far greater appreciation for boxers who outmaneuver their adversaries.

One factor that definitely helped Leonard was the 12-round distance. It was something he wanted badly, and the Petronelli brothers did Hagler a disservice when they agreed to forego the traditional 15-round course in favor of a larger chunk of the purse. A 15-rounder would have also provided a much more definitive conclusion. But both parties signed the contract, and by crying over milk spilt months before the bout, the Hagler camp only added an unnecessary sour note to its defeat.

It was not a *great* fight, rather a *good* fight enveloped by a great boxing event. Moreover, it was a fantastic achievement for Leonard, one that will be remembered as perhaps the most extraordinary boxing comeback of all-time. ■

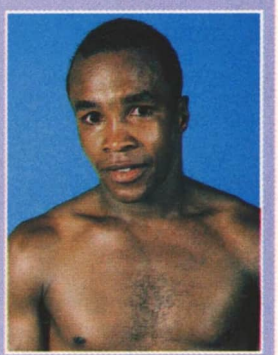
# THE RING, August 1987

***The Cover***: Sugar Ray Leonard surprised the sports world by beating world middleweight champion Marvelous Marvin Hagler, showing the same flashy brilliance that made him a superstar in his younger days. With the victory, Sugar Ray completed one of the most improbable comebacks in sports history.

***THE RING Re-Rates The Heavyweights***: THE RING took a new look at the all-time heavyweights ratings and disagreed with some of the choices of THE RING's founder, Nat Fleischer, who leaned more toward fighters from the early-1900s. This new rating placed Muhammad Ali as the best heavyweight champion of all-time, followed by Jack Johnson, Joe Louis, and Jack Dempsey.

***Leonard Beats The Odds***: In a special look at the betting action on the Leonard-Hagler bout, THE RING noted that a record $20-million was wagered on the fight in Las Vegas. There were two $100,000 bets—in cash—one on each fighter. The previous Las Vegas high also involved Hagler, when $15-million was wagered on the Hagler-Thomas Hearns fight of April 15, 1985.

***Superbouts, Superdoubts***: THE RING took a historical look at comebacks in the aftermath of Leonard disproving the old axiom that world champion fighters can never come back. Leonard could have easily looked at the failed attempts by one-time greats Joe Louis (pictured against Rocky Marciano), Benny Leonard, and Jim Jeffries as examples, but he bucked tradition and won the title.



***Fighter Of The Month***: Leonard not only earned Fighter of the Month honors with his stunning upset of Hagler, but Sugar Ray also became a strong candidate for Fighter of the Year (an honor that would ultimately go to Evander Holyfield). Mike McCallum was a hard luck runner-up to Leonard, after defending the WBA junior middleweight belt against Milton McCrory.

# COME OUT WRITING

**Letters may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034. Or e-mail letters to comeoutwriting@yahoo.com. E-mailed letters will include the writer's e-mail address unless a city and state of origin is provided.**

## CALZAGHE COMMENTS

After watching the controversial stoppage of the Joe Calzaghe-Byron Mitchell fight, I am hoping that THE RING will use whatever clout it has to force a rematch, preferably in America. I am a Calzaghe fan, but as far as I can tell, the fight was stopped because Mitchell landed a right, lost his balance, and fell backward. The ref hardly even looked at him. This was a premature stoppage, and it is unfortunate that a class act like Calzaghe will have a win tainted by the suspicion that he got the hometown treatment from an unfair referee who seemed to be waiting for an excuse to raise Calzaghe's hand. Let's see Calzaghe-Mitchell II soon, and this time in Las Vegas.

CHRIS SPECK
Durham, NC

This letter is to all Bernard "The Executioner" Hopkins fans: I think he's scared of Joe Calzaghe. I think Hopkins knows that Calzaghe is a very difficult fighter because of his southpaw style and speed. I'm pretty sure Hopkins is going to keep talking trash about getting Calzaghe into the ring, and then get out of the fight by asking for too much money. I think Calzaghe would bust up Hopkins Philadelphia style if they ever fight.

BINO MORCILLA
Winnipeg, Manitoba

## BRAVO, MICKY!

Lowell, Massachusetts, should be proud that they had a fighter like Micky Ward represent them for so many years. Here in Buffalo, we have two fighters who represent us, Joe Mesi and Ross Thompson. Mesi fights shot fighters and Thompson never beat a quality opponent. If I were the mayor of Lowell, I would build a statue to Ward. Thank you, Micky. The fans will never forget you.

PAUL M. SOTACK
Buffalo, NY

PHOTO BY TOM CASINO/SHOWTIME

***Joe Calzaghe's exciting second-round TKO of Byron Mitchell prompted quite a bit of mail, including letters from Chris Speck, who didn't like the premature ending, and Bino Morcilla, who thinks the Welshman is good enough to beat Bernard Hopkins.***

## FINISHING POWER

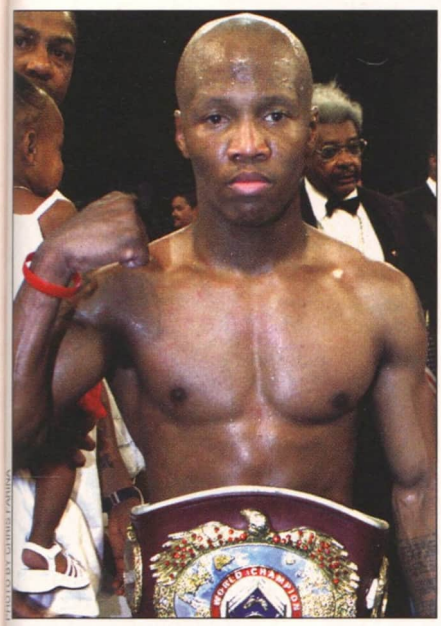
I'm writing in reference to "The 100 Greatest Punchers Of All-Time" issue of THE RING YEARBOOK. There are many strong arguments that could juggle the list until doomsday. If you want to talk greatest puncher, as in who uses his power best, I'd have to agree that it would be Joe Louis. Both Mike Tyson and George Foreman are more powerful punchers than Louis. Joe, however, was a much better boxer than either, and part of what made Louis a great champion was his ability to *use* the power he had at his disposal. Louis had much better balance than Foreman or Tyson. They each had more raw power. Louis used his better. No one could finish off a hurt fighter better than Joe Louis.

TROY MORRIS
Plainfield,CT

## SANCHEZ NO SATTERFIELD

Your "100 Greatest Punchers Of All-Time" yearbook was a masterpiece, and some of the photos were priceless, too. I especially like the pictures of Earnie Shavers, Bob Satterfield, and "Barbados" Joe Walcott. But I could not agree with all of your selections. Salvador Sanchez was an exceptional boxer, but he didn't belong on the list. In fact, Rocky Garcia and Pat Cowdell, two mediocre fighters, managed to last 15 rounds with Sanchez.

STAN PORTER
Albany, CA



*Zab Judah has a new alphabet belt following his decision win over DeMarcus Corley, but Australian reader Matthew Ambrey doesn't think Judah deserves another crack at Kostya Tszyu.*

## SHUT UP, ZAB!

I don't know about you people in America, but Australians are sick of loudmouth fighters who want rematches after they lose and look ordinary in their next few fights. Yes, I'm referring to Zab Judah, who beat DeMarcus Corley in his most recent fight, but didn't look very good doing it.

MATTHEW AMBREY
Devonport, Australia

## SHUT UP, TEDDY!

I used to have much respect for Teddy Atlas. His straight-forwardness was refreshing in a sport with so many yes men and groupie tag-along trainers. But recently he's made me sick.

Atlas seems to think that he's this big tough guy talking to a bunch of children. The way he scolded Michael Grant after his fight with Gilbert Martinez, in front of a live audience and who knows how many thousands on TV, was disgusting. Then he went on the air and bashed Nevada Athletic commission rep Keith Kizer and hardly let the poor man explain himself.

I am also sick and tired of hearing Atlas yap about how fighters "give up mentally" in the ring when the going gets tough, which is very easy to say when you're sitting outside of the ring. Why can't Teddy be upfront and honest without being loud and obnoxious? I used to respect Atlas, but now I wish Al Bernstein was back.

ALEX CALDERON
Los Angeles, CA

## ODOROUS COMPARISION, PART I

I couldn't agree more with "Digging Deep" columnist Ivan Goldman's concerns in the September '03 issue over the punishment that Wayne McCullough soaked up against Scott Harrison. Wayne is as brave as any fighter I've ever seen, but it was obvious from about the fourth round that he had no chance of turning the tide against a bigger, stronger, and more skilled opponent.

Where I think Goldman got it wrong was in comparing Harrison-McCullough to Nigel Benn-Gerald McClellan. It was absolutely nothing like that fight. Benn-McClellan was certainly not a one-sided hammering, and Goldman's implication was that somehow the British Boxing Board of Control were responsible for Gerald's condition is unfair. Benn-McClellan was an incredible battle, and until right up until the finish, the winner was uncertain. Harrison-McCullough, on the other hand, was a one-sided bout that saw an incredibly courageous man take more stick than he probably should have with no chance of coming back to win.

MARK WICKS
Walton-on-Thames, England

## ODOROUS COMPARISON, PART II

Comparing Ricardo Mayorga to Roberto Duran is ridiculous. Mayorga's style (?) is more reminiscent of Vito Antuofermo's mugging and hugging.

DAVID JOENK
Santa Clara, CA

## MORE MANNY

I am a big fan of Manny Pacquiao and enjoyed his third-round kayo of Emmanuel Lucero on the Vargas-Vanderpool show. I saw Manny on a couple of other occasions and I believe that if he got more exposure, he could be a big star. I would root for him against Erik Morales, Marco Antonio Barrera, Derrick Gainer, and "Princess" Hamed. Please publish more articles on Pacquaio.

ARNOLD CLARK
Newark, NJ ■

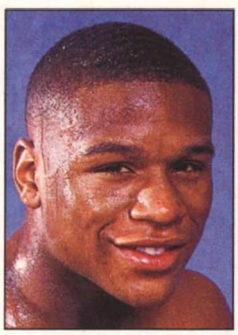
PHOTO BY JAN SANDERS

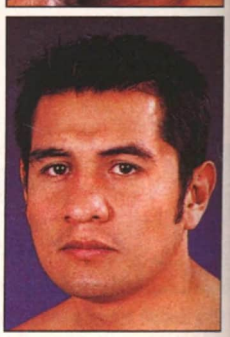
*Manny Pacquiao was back in the U.S.A., following two fights back home in the Philippines, and reader Arnold Clark couldn't be happier. After watching the IBF junior featherweight titlist dispatch Emmanuel Lucero, Clark thinks "Pac-Man" can clean out the featherweight division.*

# LOOKING AHEAD

By Eric Raskin

## POUND-FOR-POUND, BACK-TO-BACK-TO-BACK





*Mayweather, Jones, and Barrera are lined up for November*

If someone told you roughly a half-century ago that you could watch lightweight champ **Joe Brown**, light heavyweight champ (and sometimes heavyweight) **Archie Moore**, and featherweight champ **Sandy Saddler** all fight in a three-weekend span on the same TV network, you'd damn sure adjust your rabbit ears to make sure your reception on that channel was as sharp as could be. So if someone tells you that in the first three weekends in November this year you can watch lightweight champ **Floyd Mayweather**, light heavyweight champ (and sometimes heavyweight) **Roy Jones**, and featherweight champ **Marco Antonio Barrera** all fight on HBO, suffice to say that you'd have to be insane to cancel your subscription before then. Add in the fact that there's a good chance these three pound-for-pounders will all be taking on serious opponents, and you have a formula for a potentially fantastic half-month of boxing.

It all starts on November 1, when Mayweather headlines an appealing tripleheader featuring the rescheduled featherweight showdown between **Juan Manuel Marquez** and **Derrick Gainer** and a bombs-away welterweight battle between **Antonio Margarito** and **Teddy Reid**. As for "Pretty Boy Floyd's" opponent, after HBO nixed overmatched **Julio Diaz**, a move up to 140 pounds to face dangerous **Vivian Harris** became a possibility. There was still much negotiating to be done, however, as of press time.

HBO Pay-Per-View has November 8 reserved for Jones' followup to his drubbing of **John Ruiz**, but it was uncertain as we went to press whether or not it would be a heavyweight followup. **Corrie Sanders** was looking increasingly unlikely due to Jones' lame insistence that Sanders come in with the WBO heavyweight belt, which Jones knew full well Sanders would be stripped of if he agreed to fight him. So while Sanders appeared likely to fulfill his mandatory against **Lamon Brewster** first (a fight HBO Sports Vice President of Programming **Xavier James** says the network will absolutely *not* televise), Jones' attention was turned toward a 175-pound title defense against number-one ranked **Antonio Tarver**. It's not Jones-Sanders in terms of intrigue, but it's the most meaningful fight that can be made in the light heavyweight division.

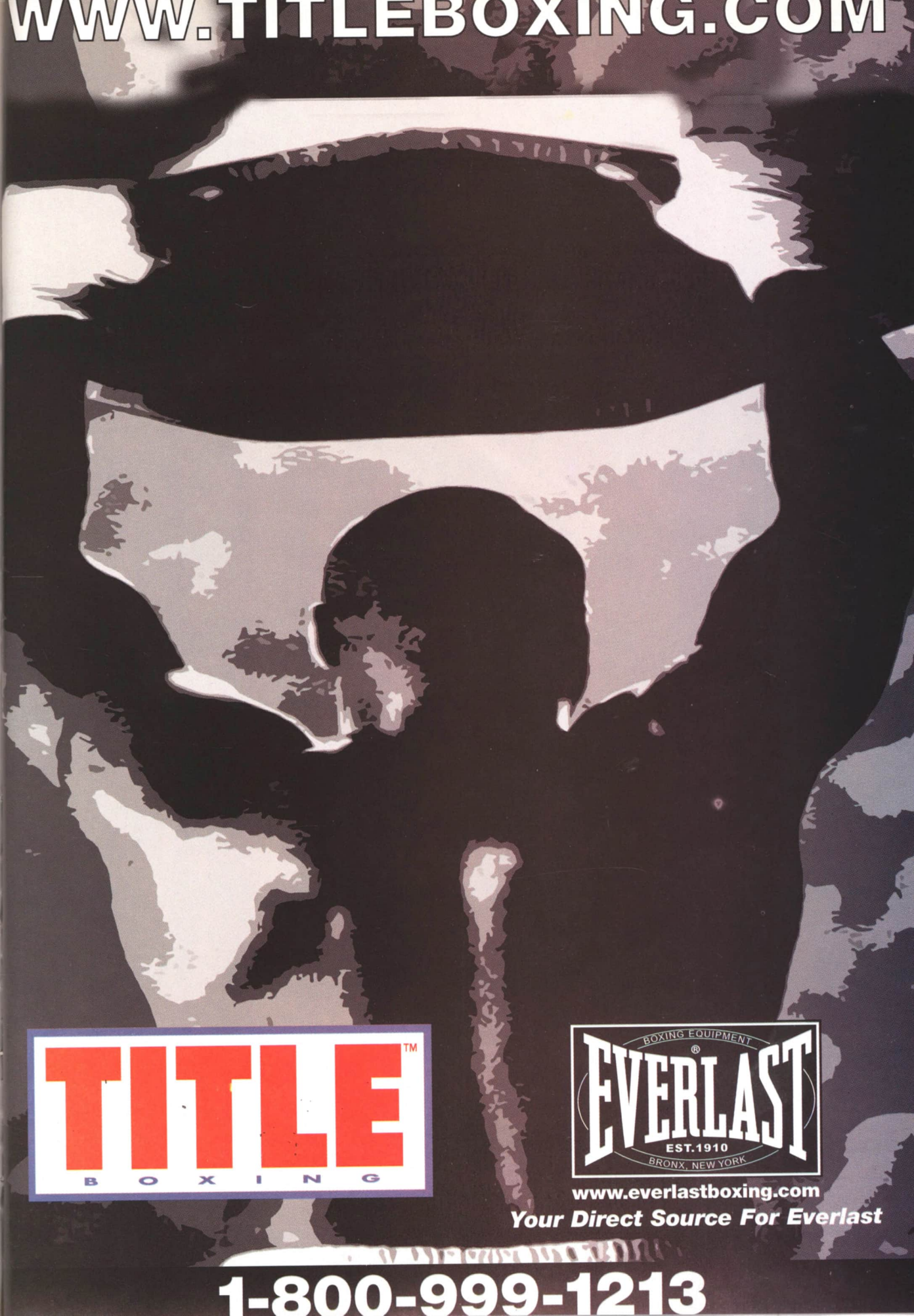
On November 15, HBO plans to give us the most sure-to-entertain main event of the three, a Barrera-**Manny Pacquiao** dukeout. James said that despite both fighters' promotional and managerial issues, he's confident there will be "no problems in terms of making that deal."

"**Johnny Tapia** was a marquee fight, but not a tough fight for Barrera, and I don't even want to talk about **Kevin Kelley**," James said. "It's time for Barrera to get back to fighting the best fighters in the world. And Pacquiao fits that description."

Jones, Mayweather, and Barrera all fit that description as well. Following an October in which HBO won't broadcast a single live fight, the cable giant is bouncing back with a November stocked with nothing but the best fighters in the world.

## LISTEN UP

It looks like HBO has some big plans for December as well. Though he won't be fighting **Lennox Lewis** on December 6, **Vitali Klitschko** will still be fighting somebody on that date, and his brother, **Wladimir**, may be fighting in the co-feature. And on December 13, HBO PPV plans to present a **Don King** show headlined by middleweight champion **Bernard Hopkins** vs. **William Joppy**, with welterweight champ **Ricardo Mayorga** on the undercard … The Spanish-language network Telefutura will be stepping up in class in October, with superstar **Fernando Vargas** fighting on October 3, and junior featherweight champion **Paulie Ayala** returning to action on October 17 … NBC Sports Vice President **Kevin Monaghan** is projecting that the network will televise somewhere between five and 12 boxing shows in 2004 … Twenty-two years after he last promoted a card at the Spectrum in Philadelphia (now called the Wachovia Spectrum), veteran promoter **J Russell Peltz** is returning to the building on November 11, with local super-prospect **Anthony Thompson** possibly fighting on the card. Peltz is hoping to make Spectrum boxing a regular happening again, like it was when he was employed as the venue's director of boxing from 1972-'80. ■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